

Policy Document: Release of Financial Information on Contract Values



**AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
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Release of Financial Data on Contract Values

1. In fulfilling our general accommodation responsibilities, the Reception & Integration Agency (RIA) does not lease or rent premises from commercial contractors. Rather, it 'contracts-in' a comprehensive range of services and facilities, which include accommodation, housekeeping, etc., for a fixed sum over the period of the contract. RIA endeavours to achieve the best value for money in relation to such contracts, in respect of which negotiations can take place with a number of commercial entities.
2. It is not in the interests of the taxpayer that current details of individual contracts are made known both to the public and to other parties who are, or may be in the future, engaged in negotiations with the RIA. To compile or release such current detailed financial information could negatively affect the competitive position of the State.
3. The compilation of this information involves considerable resources in terms of the time taken to update and check the statistical record of contract values. In order to:
 - ☐ provide for the release in a structured way of relevant information regarding the expenditure of public monies;
 - ☐ maintain the State's negotiating position in the deliberative process of obtaining the best value for money in contracts for asylum seeker accommodation;
 - ☐ maintain the best possible position for the State while preparing for future tenders (per VFM report); and
 - ☐ make best use of staff resources;

RIA has adopted the policy set out in the following paragraphs in relation to requests under FOI and otherwise in respect of information on contract values.

4. A Table of Contract Values will be updated once each year.
5. The Table of Contract Values will show all information on contract values, excluding the most recent two previous years. For example: in 2016 all information released will include data up to the end of 2013, i.e., excluding 2014 and 2015.
6. RIA will endeavour to update the Table of Contract Values by 31st January each year, resources permitting.
7. The information will be published on RIA's website: www.ria.gov.ie.
8. Limited information relating to contracts covering the two year 'withholding' period will be provided on request. However, such information will not include any information that could identify the contractor(s) or the centre(s) concerned.

Other information that may be of interest:

Value for Money (VFM) Report: <http://www.ria.gov.ie/en/RIA/Pages/VFM>

RIA Annual Reports: http://www.ria.gov.ie/en/RIA/Pages/Annual_Reports

RIA Monthly Reports: http://www.ria.gov.ie/en/RIA/Pages/Monthly_Reports