



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending  
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1651  
Date 30 August 2023

## TEESWORKS SIGN CONTRACT

Thank you for your request of 10 August 2023 for information about a specific contract at the Teesworks site. You requested:

*Can I ask what Sign Design Teesside was paid compared to the costings on the tender for signs at Teesworks?*

Your request has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have reviewed our records and can confirm that we do not hold the information that you requested.

However, you may be interested to know that the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) publishes a register of contracts it has awarded, which can be viewed at this link: [Expenditure - About \(teesvalley-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk) (see 'TVCA Contracts Register' under 'Find out more'). The linked spreadsheet includes details of the contract awarded to Sign Design GB Ltd for the 'Design, Supply, and Installation of Teesworks Site Signage'.

Given the concerns about the procurement process underlying your request you may wish to bring these to the attention of the external auditor for the TVCA. The auditor is Mazars LLP and the engagement lead is Cameron Waddell who can be contacted on [cameron.waddell@mazars.co.uk](mailto:cameron.waddell@mazars.co.uk).

The auditor will be able to consider whether there is anything relevant to their responsibilities in the matters you raise. To help the auditor consider your concerns it would be helpful to include the dates over which the procurement process took place. Please be aware that the NAO has no power to direct an external auditor, nor do we have any power to investigate a local body or private company such as the TVCA or Teesworks.

In addition, in case you are not already aware, the government through the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities has set up an independent review into specific allegations and the TVCA's oversight of the South Tees Development Corporation and Teesworks Joint Venture. You can read about the review at this link: [Independent review: Teesworks Joint Venture](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-review-into-south-tees-development-corporation). You may also wish to contact the department with your concerns at: [correspondence@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence@levellingup.gov.uk)

I am sorry that we don't hold the specific information that you requested, but I hope this response is helpful. **Annex A** sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

**NAO FOI Team**

157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London SW1W 9SP  
020 7798 7000 [www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk)



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## **Annex A**

### **Statement of Policy**

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk) or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Alternatively you can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.