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30 July 2019

INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE 19-030

Dear ██████████,

Thank you for your information request, received on 1 July 2019. You asked the London Legacy Development Corporation (Legacy Corporation) to provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

- *How much did it cost to convert the London Stadium from its football configuration to last weekend's baseball set-up?*
- *How does this figure compare to the amount spent last summer (for the Anniversary Games and summer concerts) and the summer before (for the World Athletics)?*
- *How much, if anything, did MLB contribute to these costs?*
- *What loss/profit did E20 make on the baseball games?*
- *How does that compare with the last two summers?*
- *How much will it cost to get the stadium ready for football again?*

I can confirm that the Legacy Corporation holds information which falls within the scope of your request. The information relevant to your request is below and our response follows your order:

- *How much did it cost to convert the London Stadium from its football configuration to last weekend's baseball set-up?*

I can confirm the Legacy Corporation does not hold this information in full as MLB are responsible for the pitch overlay, however the Legacy Corporation does hold the following information in relation to seat move costs.

E20 is responsible for the majority of the seat move costs, and the total incremental cost to E20 to provide the baseball seating configuration over and above the summer events seating configurations this summer is forecast to be £1.9m. The total seat move costs in 2019, including the £1.9m is anticipated to be £6.0m. This includes

moving the seating back for summer events and forward again for football at the end of the summer. For further information please follow the below link:

<https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/media/press-releases/london-stadium-hosts-four-sport-and-music-events-in-packed-summer-schedule>

- *How does this figure compare to the amount spent last summer (for the Anniversary Games and summer concerts) and the summer before (for the World Athletics)?*

In 2017, summer seat moves costs for the IAAF and IPC World Athletics Championships amounted to £11.3m; the following summer in 2018, seat moves cost £4.1m.

- *How much, if anything, did MLB contribute to these costs?*

MLB paid for the cost of the pitch and the overlay, the cost of seat moves to accommodate baseball will be paid for by E20 and was covered by the MLB hire fee.

- *What loss/profit did E20 make on the baseball games?*

In addition to the wider economic benefit of bringing MLB to London, I can confirm a profit was generated by the baseball games. The details of any loss/profit made by E20 are being withheld under s.43(2) commercial interests.

Section 43(2) - Commercial interests.

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and subject to the prejudice test and the public interest test. Under the prejudice test we have to consider if disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice our commercial interests or the commercial interests of a third party.

Consideration is also given to the harm disclosing this information would be likely to cause, combined with other information already in the public domain (mosaic effect) or possibly released at a future date (precedent effect). The public interest test considers and balances the public interest in disclosing this information against the public interest in not disclosing this information and uses this assessment to decide whether there is sufficient justification in withholding this information under this exemption.

Information disclosed under the FOIA is considered to be public information, and while there is a presumption towards disclosure, consideration needs to be given as to who will have access to this information beyond the requestor and the purposes for which they could use the information.

The Legacy Corporation has assessed the impact of releasing this information under the section 43 exemption in order to decide whether disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice their commercial interests or those of any third party(ies). They have concluded that prejudice to commercial interests would be caused by disclosure so that the exemption is engaged.

The London Stadium operates in a commercial environment, in competition with other stadia nationally and in some cases internationally for events such as concerts

and MLB. As such to disclose the profitability of events in the Stadium would provide the London Stadiums competitors with an unfair advantage and prejudice the commercial interests of the stadium operator, E20 and the Legacy Corporation.

There is, of course, the Legacy Corporation's commitment to openness and transparency, as well as the inherent presumption in favour of disclosure of information requested, however, the disclosure of the information currently withheld under section 43(2) and identified as commercially sensitive would be likely to prejudice commercial interests of the Legacy Corporation because it will reveal details which would be likely to impact on current and future highly sensitive negotiations and this would in turn be likely to impact on the Legacy Corporation's ability to get best value for the public purse.

It is the view of the Legacy Corporation that, at this time, the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

- *How does that compare with the last two summers?*

The loss/profit of the summer events from the previous two summers is withheld under s.43(2) commercial interests.

- *How much will it cost to get the stadium ready for football again?*

MLB are responsible for the removal of their overlay from the stadium.

The seat move figures provided above include the cost of returning the seating to football configuration at the end of the summer event period.

The exact ancillary costs of preparing the stadium for the start of the football season will be known once the works have been completed in August 2019.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of our decision, you should write to:

Deputy Chief Executive
London Legacy Development Corporation
Level 10, 1 Stratford Place
Montfichet Road
London, E20 1EJ

Email: FOI@londonlegacy.co.uk

Please note: complaints and requests for internal review received more than two months after the initial response will not be handled.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may appeal directly to the Information Commissioner at the address given below. You should do this within two months of our final decision. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Further information on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is available from the Information Commissioner's Office:

Wycliffe House

Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

Website www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

FOI / EIR Co-ordinator
London Legacy Development Corporation