

Dear [REDACTED]

**BCE FOI/2023/07c**

Thank you for your email request for information to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) on 27 July 2023, which has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. In your request for information you asked:

*Could I please request a copy of any documentation or manuals supplied by Informed Solutions for users of the software?*

**BCE response**

The information you have requested is being withheld because it is exempt under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 43(2) protects information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). Disclosure would be likely to harm Informed Solution's business reputation and weaken their position in a competitive environment by revealing sensitive information or information that is potentially useful in a negotiating position.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and we have carefully considered whether the balance of the public interest favours our release of this material. There is a public interest in the disclosure of information about Informed Solution's modifications to QGIS to inform public debate. Although there is a public interest in how we carry out our reviews, disclosure of information relating to this would be likely to affect adversely access to Informed Solution's proprietary code. Taking into account all the circumstances of the case, we have determined that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information.

Under the provisions of the FOI Act if you are dissatisfied with the response provided you may wish to ask for an internal review. If this situation arises you should write to:

The Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England  
35 Great Smith Street  
Westminster  
London  
SW1P 3BQ

Email: [information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk](mailto:information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk)

If it transpires you are not content with our response or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the BCE. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Office of the Information Commissioner,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,

Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF

Kind Regards,

