



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FCO Services
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

25 September 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0859-18

Thank you for your email of 2 August asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

1. Do you have a procurement policy which supports the use of UK Government IT procurement frameworks, such as G-Cloud and Digital Outcomes and Specialists?

2. Has your organisation adopted a strategy or IT policy guidance for using:
(Please indicate yes or no for each)

- Hyperscale public cloud (e.g. AWS / Azure/ Google Cloud Platform)
- Other cloud (e.g. UK Cloud)
- Software as a Service (e.g. Office 365)

2.1. Who is responsible for each?

3. How many on-premise data centres do you own?

(In this context, a 'data centre' is a secure processing facility which hosts one or more IT systems)

4. How many third-party data centres do you use?

(i.e. for colocation)

5. Do you use cloud for storing data / applications?

6. Expressed in percentage terms, approximately what proportion of your data and applications are held in:

- An on-premise data centre
- A third-party data centre
- Hyperscale public cloud (e.g. AWS / Azure/ Google Cloud Platform)
- Other public cloud (e.g. UK Cloud)
- Private cloud

7. Is your IT primarily managed in-house or is it outsourced?

8. Do you share your IT infrastructure and services with any other organisation?

(i.e. do you have shared services arrangements)

9. Do you have a central IT department?

10. Who in your organisation is responsible for driving your cloud strategy?

11. If your organisation does have a cloud strategy, what are the main drivers?

(Please indicate yes or no for each)

- Cost savings
- Scalability
- Agility
- Security
- Modernisation
- Other (please specify):

12. In the next 12 months are you looking to procure any of the following?

(Please indicate yes or no for each)

- On-premise data centre
- Colocation facilities
- Physical IT infrastructure
- Hyperscale public cloud services (e.g. AWS / Azure/ Google Cloud Platform)
- Other public cloud services (e.g. UK Cloud)
- Private cloud services
- Outsourced IT managed services

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the FCO Services does hold information relevant to your request.

Please find attached the information that FCO Services can release to you.

Some of the information has been withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act relates to personal information. The information you have requested is personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply

Some information has been withheld under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The exemption in section 31 (1) (a) is designed to cover all aspects of the prevention and detection of crime.

Section 31 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency and we recognise that releasing this information would provide the public with assurance that we are protecting our IT infrastructure. However, disclosure of the information requested could aid a criminal who was intent on launching an attack on the Department's ICT systems and could expose the FCO Services to potential threats such as targeted e-crime and expose the FCO Services to

potential threats of a criminal nature. For the reasons set out above, we have assessed that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other reuse, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCO will have been produced by government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives website. Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non-Crown Copyright) information.

If you would like a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Officer
FCO Services



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.