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|  | FOI|15|15 |  | February 2015 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

You requested:

\*1.   Does your department uses any key logging software? (Software that records key strokes on a computer)

\*2.   What is the name of the software used?

\*3.   When was this software first used?

\*4.   What is the cost of this software?

\*5.   How many employees do you have?

The information that you have requested in questions 1 to 4 is exempt under section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act. This exemption protects information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. By virtue of section 17(4) we are not obliged to give any explanation of why this exemption applies because to do so would involve the disclosure of information which would itself be exempt. Section 31 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours disclosing or withholding this information. There is a general public interest in openness. I also recognise that there is a public interest in understanding the use of IT software by departments. These public interests have to be weighed against a stronger public interest in the effectiveness of law enforcement.

The Attorney General’s Office takes the view that disclosure of this information would prejudice the effectiveness of the enforcement of the law. It would not be in the interest of the UK’s national security for departments to provide information about the security software used in their IT systems as this would aid a malicious actor in identifying potential weaknesses in the department’s IT security and potentially assist them in criminal acts against the systems. Taking into account all the circumstances of this case, I have concluded that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information.

With respect to question 5, I can confirm that the latest recorded data shows that the AGO has 37.38 full-time equivalent employees.