



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Information and Technology Directorate
King Charles Street
Room KCS 4.14
London
SW1A 2AH

01 December 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) 2000 - REQUEST REF: 1012-14

Thank you for your email of 4th November 2014 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You asked:

- 1: What software vendor is used by the ICT team?*
- 2: What software licenses the ITC team owns (size and module)?*
- 3: Existing / Current Supplier?*
- 4: Current maintenance contract duration: (Please can you also include notes if the contract includes any contract extension periods)?*
- 5: Contract expiry date (When the maintenance / support is due for renewal again)?*
- 6: Contract review date (An approximate date of when the organisation is planning to review this particular contract)?*
- 7: Internal Contract: (The person from within the organisation that is responsible for reviewing and renewing this particular platform. Please include their full name, job title, direct contact number and direct email address.)?*
- 8: And procurement process that takes places to renew the maintenance / support contract (framework name, three quotes, etc.)?*

In respect of questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 above, we are withholding this information under Section 24 (1) - National Security and Section 31 (1) (a) - law enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Section 24

We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) protecting national security.

Section 24 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in the FCO protecting national security. Having reviewed the requested material, we are concerned that disclosure could undermine the confidentiality and integrity of departmental systems and consequently adversely impact on the UK's security. We have therefore concluded that the exemption applies and that non-disclosure serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

For these reasons, we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 31

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 would expose the FCO to potential threats of a criminal nature. For example, the targeting of our supply chain. The FCO takes the protection of its IT infrastructure very seriously. We implement the mandatory requirements of the Cabinet Office Security Policy Framework and follow Her Majesty's Government's information Assurance standards and best practice which covers all areas of security.

For the reasons set out above, however we have assessed that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

In respect to question 7 above, 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.

In respect to question 8 above our procurement processes are as follows:

- Oracle software licence support & maintenance renewals are made under a Memorandum of Understanding agreement between Her Majesty's Government and the Cabinet Office.
- Software for desktops is delivered through our re-seller Computacenter and part of the FCO's Development and Infrastructure Framework.
- Small projects/requirements the FCO follows the process set in the Central Government framework Digital Market place (formerly known as G-Cloud).

- In accordance with EU competition rules the FCO uses the OJEU process & G Cloud to deliver higher value complex projects like the Development and Infrastructure and System Management and Integration frameworks using the open procedure, as appropriate.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

Yours sincerely,

Knowledge and Technology Directorate



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.