



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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08459 33 55 77  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Our ref: RFI 7116

9 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Oracle ERP provision**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 12 December 2014, about the Oracle E-Business Suite and ERP provision at Defra. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of this information.

We are able to provide you with information responding to questions 1 – 8, 10 and 11 in your email as set out below:

**Questions 1 – 7 in your email**

We received a similar request from another individual on 23 January 2014 and our response to that request provides the information that you have requested at questions 1 to 7 in your email. The response to this previous request is online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-hr-and-it-systems>. As this information is reasonably accessible to you by other means (i.e. by the above hyperlink), section 21 of the FOIA exempts Defra from supplying it again in response to future requests. Therefore, I have not repeated the information in this letter, but you do of course have access to it via the above hyperlink.

**8. Do you have a current Oracle Support Partner? If so who is it and when is your contract up for renewal?**

No, support is provided via Defra's current contracts with IBM and with Shared Services Connected Ltd (SSCL).

**10. If you are not use the Oracle E-Business Suite please could you advise what software you are using? (eg SAP, Agresso, JD Edwards, Microsoft...ETC)**

Not applicable as we use Oracle

**11. Which Tender portal does your organisation use?**

We use Bravo Solutions as our tender portal



The information that you requested at question 9 of your request is being withheld as it falls under the exemptions in sections 24 (national security) and 31(1)(a) (crime prevention) of the FOIA.

In applying these exemptions, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

We recognise that there is a public interest in the disclosure of information concerning the IT systems used in government, and which elements of Oracle we are using. On the other hand, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information because, in respect of the exemption at section 24 of the FOIA, it would not be in the interests of the UK's national security for Defra to provide details of the Oracle elements used as this may assist any attempt to attack the system. Moreover, as an attempt to hack into an IT system is a criminal offence, there is also a strong public interest in withholding the information under the exemption at section 31(1)(a) of the FOIA; disclosure of the information would prejudice the prevention of crime because the information would provide information enabling a malicious attack against the system. Therefore, we have concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld.

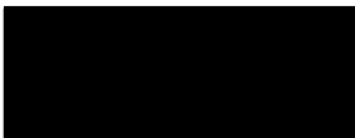
In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.


I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

  
**Defra FOIA and EIRs Team**  
[InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex A

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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## Annex B

### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: [requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF