

We were asked:

Q1. How many PCs (desktops, laptops, tablets) does your department/authority currently run in total?

Q2. On which operating systems do these devices run? (

Q3. On 9 April 2014, how many PCs will you have running on Windows XP?

Q4. Are you in the process of migrating these devices off Windows XP? If so, to which operating system are you upgrading them? And when do you expect the migration process to be complete?

We replied:

A1. The Wales Office has 81 desktops, 3 laptops and 1 tablet.

A2/3. In response to questions 2 and 3, the versions of the operating systems used by this department is exempt under section 31(1)(a) of the FOIA. We are not obliged to provide some of the information requested as it is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

In line with the terms of this exemption in the FOIA, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information. I have outlined our public interest considerations below:

Disclosure could promote public trust in providing transparency, demonstrating openness and accountability. This public interest has to be weighed against a stronger public interest in the effectiveness of law enforcement and the need to prevent or detect crimes. By releasing the specific versions of operating systems, the department could be vulnerable to attack from malicious operators, compromising measures to protect government Information and Communications Technology (ICT) systems. Therefore, I have concluded that the balance of the public interest is better served by withholding this information under section 31(1)(a) of the FOIA.

A4. The Wales Office uses IT services supplied under Ministry of Justice contracts, and we do not hold IT contracts in our own right. You may therefore wish to ask the Ministry of Justice this question.