



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Knowledge & Technology Directorate

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

11 August 2015

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0645-15

Thank you for your email of 30 June 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. Does the organisation use Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) or any Oracle ERP software? How many users are using EBS?*
- 2. Which version of Oracle EBS are you currently using (eg 11.5.10, 11i, R12.1.3, R12.2 ETC)?*
- 3. When was your last upgrade completed?*
- 4. When are you planning your next upgrade/patching project and to what version will you be upgrading?*
- 5. Do you currently outsource your Oracle EBS upgrade / patching projects/services and to which supplier (Oracle Partner)?*
- 6. What is the value of the contract and when does the contract expire?*
- 7. Who is the person responsible for the Oracle EBS system - please provide full name, title and contact information (if possible)*
- 8. What are you running on the EBS? (eg Finance? HR? Payroll? ETC)*
- 9. 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)*
- 10. Which Tender portal does your organisation use?*

11. When is the Oracle support and Maintenance licence due for renewal and what was the value of the last invoice?

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

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds some information relevant to your request. However, for your questions 2, 3, 4, 5 (b), 6 (b), 7 and 8 we are withholding this information under Section 24 (1) – National Security, and section 31 (1) (a) – law enforcement and section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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 its release would undermine our efforts to protect our IT system from malicious attacks, and consequently adversely impact on the UK's security. We have therefore concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

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.

Section 40: Some of 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 section 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, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

The answers to your other questions are as follows:

Question 1(a): Yes.

Question 1(b): All FCO staff are users. We cannot provide a definitive answer as the exact number of employees in the organisation changes regularly but there are approximately 14,000 users at any one time

Question 5(a): Yes.

Question 6(a): We have three active contracts for EBS operating services totalling £6,337,505 over two years.

Question 9: Not applicable.

Question 10: FCO's Commercial and Procurement Group use a tender portal solution provided by Bravo Solutions

Question 11(a): 2nd quarter 2016

Question 11(b): £2.1m.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Knowledge & 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.