



Animal &  
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Agency

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[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC0930

23 September 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about paper which we received on 8 September 2016. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

"I am emailing to make a request for answers to my following questions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. What was the latest price paid per ream (500 sheets) of standard white copier paper (80 gsm or equivalent)?
2. If the answer to question 1. is not representative of a usual price paid, what is the average price paid per ream of copier paper during financial year 2015/16?

The information in questions 1 and 2 are withheld under Section 43(1) and (2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Section 43(1) of the FOIA exempts information if its disclosure under the Act would amount to a trade secret.

Section 43(2) of the FOIA exempts information if its disclosure under the Act would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person.

The Exemptions in Section 43 is subject to a Public Interest Test to ensure it is being appropriately applied.

### Public Interest Test

APHA understand that there is a public interest in the publication of information concerning the expenditure of public funds. We also understand that further information in this area may facilitate accountability and transparency in whether APHA have obtained a competitive price for stationary we use.

However, APHA's supplier of paper is in the public domain and can be found via the contract search on Data.GOV.UK

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/search/?query=stationery>

The Act does not define "trade secret" and that phrase has to be construed widely and that it includes more than secret recipes or formulae. A pricing structure can amount to a trade secret as it is often this that is the source of a company's competitive edge.

APHA also consider that disclosure of the pricing would give competitors a significant and unfair commercial advantage, which would clearly prejudice our supplier's commercial interests.

Therefore we consider that our supplier's pricing is exempt from disclosure under the Act and therefore has been withheld.

3. How many reams of copy paper were purchased during the 2015/16 financial year?"

Please see the table below for the amount of paper purchased by APHA between April 2015 and March 2016.

<b>A3 Paper Ream Quantity</b>	<b>A4 Paper Ream Quantity</b>	<b>A5 Paper Ream Quantity</b>
284	11,805	0

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

I attach an Annex which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

### **Copyright**

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### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at [enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk) or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have 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 APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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