

Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

Subject: Request for details of Companies House spend on the Beta service for the last three years

Date Released: 18 April 2016

Summary of request: The enquirer requested details of Companies House spend on the Beta service for the last three years

Information Released

Companies House uses Amazon web-hosting services (AWS) for its <https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/web-check-services>.

1) How much did Companies House spend on these services over the previous three years (broken down by years)?

The service has been in place since April 2015 and the total spend up to 31st March 2016 is £135k.

2) What was the process for using Amazon's service as opposed to others?

AWS via GCloud were initially identified as a suitable market leading supplier and a simple and fast way to establish a proof of concept for provisioning just the image viewing functionality of the beta service. This service began in April 2015 and it was recognised that, if the approach proved effective, we would conduct a competitive tender process to establish the eventual host for the whole beta service.

A competitive procurement exercise via the GCloud framework commenced in Q3 2015. AWS were successful in this procurement, a formal contract was awarded to AWS in Q4 2015 and is due to go live in Q1 2016.

3) How long is contract for?

The contract will run for an initial period of 2 years to Q1 2018.

I must inform you that I have not provided the actual contract dates as this information is being withheld under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, which states that information is exempt if its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of a crime.

We have considered the public interest in this matter but our decision is to withhold this information. Disclosure of this information could provide information useful to those wishing to harm the Agency's IT systems and may enable them to continue their cyber-attacks, or may damage any attempt to identify them via law enforcement agencies.

Additional question:

Please could you confirm the value of the new contract?

The combined cost of hosting the CHS service together with the image database will be around £250k per year. The actual cost is variable as it is based on transactional volumes.