

**FOI Release**  
**Information released under the Freedom of Information Act**

**Title:** Twenty questions about the IPO IT team and infrastructure

**Date of release:** 27 March 2017

**Information request:**

See below.

**Information released:**

1. What is your annual IT Infrastructure Budget for 2016, 2017 & 2018?  
*This information is not held by the IPO because we are unable to separate spending on infrastructure from other IT spending.*
2. What storage vendor(s) and model do you currently use?  
*The IPO currently uses IBM. We decline from disclosing further details, such as the current model, under section 31(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act. The reason why we consider this information to be exempt is because section 31(1) (a) applies to information, the disclosure of which would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. Disclosure of this information could be useful to persons intent on breaching our security defences. Section 31 is a 'qualified' exemption, which means that we are obliged to consider any public interest arguments for or against disclosure. Having considered this we have concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption overrides the public interest in disclosure.*
3. When was the installation date of above storage vendor(s)?  
*Commenced in first quarter of 2017. We decline to disclose more about the date of installation than to the nearest quarter for the same reason given in answer to question 2 above.*
4. When is your planned (or estimated) storage refresh date?  
*No date planned.*
5. What is your estimated budget for the refresh?  
*We have yet to apply for this.*
6. What is the capacity of the storage data in TB?  
*Currently 680 TB.*
7. The total number of IT staff employed by the organization:  
*Total number of staff: 126.*
8. Please list and provide contact details for the IT senior management team including CIO, IT Director and Infrastructure Architects if applicable:  
*The names and contact details of most of our senior management team are exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act because*

*they consist of the personal data of employees who do not occupy outward facing roles.*

*Section 40(2) of the FOI Act provides that personal data is exempt if one of the conditions set out in section 40(3) is satisfied. Under the Act disclosure of this information would breach the fair processing principle contained in the Data Protection Act where, as on this occasion, it would be unfair to those persons. The exception is our CTO, Mike Fishwick, whose name is publically available.*

9. Please confirm if you are utilising desktop virtualisation technologies and if so how many users do you provide services for?

*I confirm that we are utilizing such technologies for less than 1500 users.*

10. What backup software do you use?

*We decline to provide information for the same reason given in answer to question 2 above.*

11. How much data do you backup in TB?

*As above.*

12. Number of servers?

*As above.*

13. What operating system(s) do you use?

*As above.*

14. Number of virtualised servers?

*As above.*

15. What percentage of your environment is virtualised?

*As above.*

16. If you outsource your IT works, please provide who it is with and when the contract started and ends.

*We do not outsource IT work.*

17. Please also name all of the IT re-sellers that you work with and buy from, as well as the frameworks that you use for the release of any tenders etc.

*We use CCS and government frameworks. Procurement information is advertised on our website.*

8. Please also approximate the time spent managing your IT systems, specifically storage, per week in the unit of man hours. Also approximate the amount of time taken carving out LUNs and/or Volumes.

*We decline to provide information for the same reason given in answer to question 2 above.*

19. Please list any and all pain points that the IT teams, and organisation as a whole, experience with regard to the storage and usage of the virtualised workloads.

*As above.*

20. How is your storage connected, i.e. via Fibre Channel, Ethernet (NFS or iSCSI). If your storage is currently connected via Fibre Channel, do you have access to 10 GB Ethernet, or 1 GB Ethernet, and if so, please declare which.

*As above.*