



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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www.gov.uk/DIO

Ref. FOI 2019/01022

20 February 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 January 2019 requesting the following information:

"I understand that the Defence Infrastructure Organisation has purchased services from companies under the G-Cloud Framework. I note that the buyer's guide for digital outcomes stipulates that buyers should maintain an audit trail to provide evidence of compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015."

The guidance dictates that this information should be stored in an accessible format such as a folder shared by members of the team, for purchases via this framework. Stipulations regarding the scope of the audit trail are listed at

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Fg-cloud-buyers-guide&data=02%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7C1f26edc9bf444fced3b208d6812e2097%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C1%7C636838432443800981&sd=OdI9iX5EPnSvCvNAW%2Fk%2Fp4L4FTu8RmZ%2BfSYSZBf%2BvXI%3D&reserved=0>

In accordance with these stipulations, I am requesting disclosure of:

1. *Titles of all services purchased under a G-Cloud framework – between 1 Jan. 2015 and the present day – from:*

*IBM United Kingdom Ltd
BRAMBLE HUB LIMITED*

2. *Audit trails for each of these purchases, including the following documents:*

- *List of requirements in the search for services, including available funds, technical requirements and criteria on which choice will be based.*

- *A copy of the category, keywords and filters used in the search for services, and the date on which the results were extracted.*

- *A spreadsheet or csv of exported results, with service names, descriptions and prices.*

- *Records of all communications with the supplier, including early market engagement, clarification questions, emails and face to face conversations you have.*

With reference to item 1. above, please note that I am requesting the specific titles of all services purchased. I am aware that some data regarding G-cloud spending are published on Contracts finder and via G-Cloud transparency data, but this information is either aggregated or does not reliably include service titles."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information on the subjects you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to determine, locate and extract the information in scope of your request would involve at least some 48 days of effort.

Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. For example, we may be able to provide you some information if you reduce or refine your request to titles of all services purchased under a G-Cloud framework – between 1 January 2015 to present concerning IBM United Kingdom Ltd and Bramble Hub Limited.

Please contact us via the details at the top of this letter if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat