



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FCO Services
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

01 July 2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0394-19

Thank you for your email of 18th April 2019 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I wish to submit a request for some of the organisation's information around the internal plans and strategy documents around ICT.

The ICT documents I require is the 2019 – Onwards. If any of the documents is for example 2017-2020 please make sure that this is the 2019 version of the document. Or the most recent update.

I wish to obtain the following documents:

- 1. ICT/IM&T/IS Strategy- The IT department strategy or plans, highlights their current and future objectives.*
- 2. ICT Org Chart- A visual document that present the structure of the IT department, please include name and job titles. If this can't be sent please work towards a structure with job titles.*
- 3. ICT Annual or Business Plan- Similar to the ICT strategy but is more annually focused.*
- 4. ICT Capital Programme/budget- A document that shows financials budget on current and future projects.*

If some of these documents are not valid, please state when the 2019 ICT documents are planned to be published.

IMT = Information Technology

ICT = Information & Communications Technology

IS = Information Systems

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

I can confirm that FCO Services does hold information relevant to your request.

1. This information is published in our Annual Report on [Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk). The Annual Report for FY 17/18 is available and therefore the information is withheld under Section 21. FY18/19 will be available in July and therefore the information is withheld under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act.

2. I have attached an organogram of job titles. I am withholding names of staff under Section 40 of the Freedom of information act. Please see below for details of the exemption.
3. This information is published in our Annual Report on .Gov.UK. The Annual Report for FY 17/18 is available and therefore the information is withheld under Section 21. FY18/19 will be available in July and therefore the information is withheld under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act.
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Section 21 states (1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection

(1)— (a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

Section 22

The information you have requested relating to IT Strategy, business plans, budgets and current and future objectives is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act as the information is intended for future publication.

Section 22 provides that:

1. Information is exempt information if -
 - (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),
 - (b) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

The exemption under Sections 22 of the Freedom of Information Act recognises that it must be reasonable in all the circumstances to withhold the information until the date of publication. Given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing.

Section 40

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 sections 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 section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

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.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCO will have been produced by government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives website.

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If you would like a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Officer

FCO Services

