



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2019/13284
RFI:410/19

Date: 20 December 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: FINANCIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT.

We refer to your email dated 29 November 2019 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the 2 December 2019.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

“In 2013 the UK Government introduced its Cloud First policy which is defined as “mandatory for central government and strongly recommended to the wider public sector”*. As a strategic decision, proven in the commercial sector already, migration into the cloud is a means to realise tangible, immediate and sustainable cost reductions coupled to significant improvements in performance, efficiency and customer service.

In this context, and in the spirit of Freedom of Information, please could you help me understand the current situation concerning the finance system used by the Constabulary:

- 1. What finance system is used by the Constabulary?**
- 2. Does the system include a Purchase-to-Pay module?**
- 3. How many officers and staff have log-ins to the finance system, not just in the finance department but across the Constabulary more widely?**
- 4. Do you currently offer self-service functionality to your creditors and debtors to help them resolve financial matters and queries without their needing to call your finance team?**

5. **Where is the finance system physically located and run, i.e. is it deployed locally on premise and managed by Constabulary staff in-house, or externally via the cloud, eg: hosted and managed by the vendor?**
6. **What is the annual support and maintenance cost, or cloud subscription fee, paid for the finance system?**
7. **What other systems used by the Constabulary are currently integrated with your finance system?**
8. **When did the contract to supply the current finance system commence and when does it expire?**
9. **When do you expect to begin evaluating alternative solutions as contract expiration approaches?**
10. **Who is the Constabulary officer/staff member with ultimate responsibility for financial operations and the resources (eg systems) required to facilitate them (name & title please)?**
11. **If you are part of a shared service is your finance system utilised across the partnership and if not, how do you share financial data and reporting?"**

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold some information in scope of your request.

1. What finance system is used by the Constabulary?

The Ministry of Defence Police Finance Department uses the following systems that are used across the Ministry of Defence:

The Cognos Planning, Budgeting & Forecasting Tool
The Contracting, Purchasing and Finance Tool
The Bills Direct System.

2. Does the system include a Purchase-to-Pay module?

Contracts Purchasing and Finance system.

3. How many officers and staff have log-ins to the finance system, not just in the finance department but across the Constabulary more widely?

The Cognos Planning, Budgeting & Forecasting Tool – Total of 11 staff (Finance team only)
The Contracting, Purchasing and Finance Tool – Total of 92 staff
The Bills Direct System – Total of 11 staff (Finance team only)

4. Do you currently offer self-service functionality to your creditors and debtors to help them resolve financial matters and queries without their needing to call your finance team?

No

5. Where is the finance system physically located and run, i.e. is it deployed locally on premise and managed by Constabulary staff in-house, or externally via the cloud, eg: hosted and managed by the vendor?

Defence Business Services Bristol.

6. What is the annual support and maintenance cost, or cloud subscription fee, paid for the finance system?

No Information held.

7. What other systems used by the Constabulary are currently integrated with your finance system?

No Information held.

8. When did the contract to supply the current finance system commence and when does it expire?

No Information held.

9. When do you expect to begin evaluating alternative solutions as contract expiration approaches?

No Information held.

10. Who is the Constabulary officer/staff member with ultimate responsibility for financial operations and the resources (eg systems) required to facilitate them (name & title please)?

No Information held.

11. If you are part of a shared service is your finance system utilised across the partnership and if not, how do you share financial data and reporting?

All MOD finance systems are administered by the Defence Business Services.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk).

Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office