



Homes
England

Date: 8 June 2021

Our Ref: RFI3468

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

Making homes happen

██████████
By Email Only

Windsor House
Homes England – 6th Floor
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Dear ██████████

RE: Request for Information – RFI3468

Thank you for your recent email, which was processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).
You requested the following information:

1. *Do you have a cloud strategy? (Please provide a link to the strategy)*
 - A) Yes
 - B) No

2. *When was the cloud strategy defined?*

3. *If yes, what is the focus of your cloud strategy?*
 - A) All in on public cloud (no private cloud or on-premise infrastructure)
 - B) Cloud First (new services in public cloud with some on premises infrastructure or private cloud)
 - C) Hybrid cloud (some combination of one or more public clouds, private cloud and on-premises)
 - D) Private cloud (no public cloud)

4. *What public cloud(s) do you use?*
 - A) AWS
 - B) Alibaba Cloud
 - C) Azure
 - D) Google Cloud Platform
 - E) Oracle Cloud
 - F) UK Cloud

5. *What percentage of your applications and/or workloads is on premise?*
 - A) 0%
 - B) 10% - 25%
 - C) 25% - 50%
 - D) 50% - 75%
 - E) 100%

6. *What percentage of your applications and/or workloads is in the public cloud?*
 - A) 0%

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- B) 10% - 25%
- C) 25% - 50%
- D) 50% - 75%
- E) 100%

7. *What percentage of your data is on premise?*

- A) 0%
- B) 10% - 25%
- C) 25% - 50%
- D) 50% - 75%
- E) 100%

8. *What percentage of your data is in the public cloud?*

- A) 0%
- B) 10% - 25%
- C) 25% - 50%
- D) 50% - 75%
- E) 100%

9. *What percentage of your infrastructure is legacy?*

- A) 0%
- B) 10% - 25%
- C) 25% - 50%
- D) 50% - 75%
- E) 100%

10. *Do you have third-party services or solutions on premise that are not cloud-ready or fit for cloud migration?*

- A) Yes
- B) No

11. *What workloads or functions have you moved to the cloud? (Multiple answers. Please specify other if not listed)*

- A) *Office productivity (e.g. Microsoft 365, Google Workspace)*
- B) *Citizen-facing digital services (e.g. GOV.UK)*
- C) *Back-office applications (e.g. transaction processing)*
- D) *Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, cognitive services*
- E) *Software development/DevOps*
- F) *Corporate functions (e.g. HR, Finance, CRM)*
- G) *Intranet*
- H) *Public website*
- I) *Backup, business continuity and disaster recovery*
- J) *Other*

12. *What challenges did you face when moving to the public cloud? (Multiple answers. Please specify other if not listed)*

- A) *Migrating certain applications*
- B) *Legacy infrastructure*



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- C) *Different refresh cycles*
- D) *Difficulty proving cost illustrations*
- E) *Funding paths (Capex/Opex)*
- F) *Data gravity*
- G) *Data Classification*
- H) *Licensing concerns*
- I) *Data privacy concerns*
- J) *Offshoring & data residency*
- K) *Lack of in-house skills*
- L) *Vendor lock-in/ Egress cost prohibitive*
- M) *Other*

13. *What percentage of your infrastructure do you plan to be public cloud based in 12 months' time?*

- F) *0%*
- G) *10% - 25%*
- H) *25% - 50%*
- I) *50% - 75%*
- J) *100%*

14. *What percentage of your infrastructure do you plan to be public cloud based in three years' time?*

- A) *0%*
- B) *10% - 25%*
- C) *25% - 50%*
- D) *50% - 75%*
- E) *100%*

15. *How much has your organisation spent on public cloud since the Government's G-Cloud or 'cloud-first' policy was introduced in 2012?*

16. *How much has your organisation spent on on-premise infrastructure since the Government's G-Cloud or 'cloud-first' policy was introduced in 2012?*

17. *How much has your organisation spent on cloud/infrastructure consultancy services in FY 20-21?*

18. *How much was spent on public cloud data egress charges in FY 20-21?*

Response

We can confirm that we do hold some information that falls within the scope of your request. We will address each point in turn.

1. ***Do you have a cloud strategy?***

We are able to confirm that Homes England does not hold the information detailed in your request. This is because there is no business reason for Homes England to do so.

In order to conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Digital team who would have the requested information if held.



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The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty under section 1(1) is only to provide the recorded information held.

The full text of section 1 in the legislation can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/1>

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. To comply with this duty, we are able to confirm that we do have a general 'Digital Strategy' for 2020/21 which contains the following section relating to cloud services:

With our Technology...

- Design, iterate and productionise our cloud platform
- Accelerate the migration of services to cloud, serverless and infrastructure as code

2. **When was the cloud strategy defined?** As per our response to Q1, Homes England does not have a defined 'Cloud Strategy'. However, the digital strategy document referred to in Q1 is for the financial year 2020/21.
3. **If yes, what is the focus of your cloud strategy?** Hybrid cloud (some combination of one or more public clouds, private cloud and on-premises)
4. **What public cloud(s) do you use?** Azure
5. **What percentage of your applications and/or workloads is on premise?** 50% - 75%
6. **What percentage of your applications and/or workloads is in the public cloud?** 10% - 25%
7. **What percentage of your data is on premise?** 50% - 75%
8. **What percentage of your data is in the public cloud?** 50% - 75%
9. **What percentage of your infrastructure is legacy?** 10% - 25%
10. **Do you have third-party services or solutions on premise that are not cloud-ready or fit for cloud migration?** Yes
11. **What workloads or functions have you moved to the cloud? (Multiple answers. Please specify other if not listed)**
 - Office productivity (e.g. Microsoft 365, Google Workspace)
 - Software development/DevOps
 - Public website
 - Other (Service Management)
12. **What challenges did you face when moving to the public cloud? (Multiple answers. Please specify other if not listed)**



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- Difficulty proving cost illustrations
- Funding paths (Capex/Opex)
- Data Classification
- Licensing concerns
- Data privacy concerns
- Offshoring & data residency
- Lack of in-house skills
- Vendor lock-in/ Egress cost prohibitive

13. **What percentage of your infrastructure do you plan to be public cloud based in 12 months' time?** 25% - 50%
14. **What percentage of your infrastructure do you plan to be public cloud based in three years' time?** 50% - 75%
15. **How much has your organisation spent on public cloud since the Government's G-Cloud or 'cloud-first' policy was introduced in 2012?** Circa £4.5m which includes revenue and capital costs.
16. **How much has your organisation spent on on-premise infrastructure since the Government's G-Cloud or 'cloud-first' policy was introduced in 2012?** Circa £500,000
17. **How much has your organisation spent on cloud/infrastructure consultancy services in FY 20-21?** Circa £900k
18. **How much was spent on public cloud data egress charges in FY 20-21?** Unknown but negligible

Right to Appeal

If you are not happy with the information that has been provided or the way in which your request has been handled, you may request an internal review. You can request an internal review by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

The Information Governance Team
Homes England – 6th Floor
Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Your request for review must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response. Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for review will be passed to an independent party not involved in your original request. We aim to issue a response within 20 working days.



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You may also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) however, the Information Commissioner does usually expect the internal review procedure to be exhausted in the first instance.

The Information Commissioner's details can be found via the following link <https://ico.org.uk/>

Please note that the contents of your request and this response are also subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Homes England may be required to disclose your request and our response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

The Information Governance Team

For Homes England

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