



UK Hydrographic Office

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25 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of **4th May 2022** requesting the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request the following information:

- *A list of your current Projects and Programmes (for example IT Projects)?*
- *Associated timelines for those Project and Programmes?*
- *Your current spend on Agency, temporary or Contingent Labour?*
- *Copies of business Cases approved in the past 3 Months?*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the UKHO, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below at annex A but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at sections 43(2) (commercial interest), and qualified exemptions provided for at sections 26 (Defence), of the FOIA and has been redacted/ withheld, as noted below.

sections 43(2) (commercial interest) and section 26 (Defence), are qualified exemptions and are subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 43(2) - commercial interests - is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure. In this instance, the information requested is classed as commercially sensitive for the following reason that all projects and programmes are fundamentally protecting our future revenue stream whether directly or indirectly. The information requested falls within the 'Prejudice to commercial interests - own commercial interests' class. As the UK Hydrographic Office engages in commercial activities and generates its own income, disclosure of the information requested would therefore prejudice the UK Hydrographic Office's commercial interests.

Section 26(1) - defence - In this instance, the balance of the public interest test found that the release of this information would have an adverse effect to our strategic relationship and deterrent.

It would be detrimental to the capability, effectiveness, or security of any relevant forces to release the requested information related to defence projects and programmes.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

UKHO Secretariat

Annex A

A list of your current Projects and Programmes (for example IT Projects)

Please find below the list of our current projects and programmes. Some of these project/programme titles have been withheld under the following sections of the FOIA as stated above:

Withheld under Section 43(2) - Commercial interests

Withheld under Section 26(1) - Defence

- Marketing Website
- Admiralty Digital Delivery Service
- HPD Upgrade
- ENC Sales Audit Tool
- Recruitment
- ENC Updating
- SDRA Upgrade
- Seabed Mapping Service Improvements
- IT Resilience
- Seabed Mapping Tiled Download
- ElasticSearch Capability
- S-100 Exchange Set Service
- Future of Navigation
- K2 Upgrade and Migration
- Notice to Mariner Service

Associated timelines for those Project and Programmes?

Withheld under S43(2) Commercial interests

Your current spend on Agency, temporary or Contingent Labour?

The current spend on agency, temporary or contingent labour is circa £3.8m per annum. Due to matrix management of resources between BAU and Project/Programme, the breakdown of costs, down to role level, is not possible at present.

Copies of business Cases approved in the past 3 Months?

We are able to provide you with the title of business cases approved within the past 3 months however, we are unable to provide copies of business cases as the information requested falls within *Section 43(2) Commercial interests*. The titles are as follow:

- 1. Next Generation Sailing Directions**
- 2. Future of Bridgwater**