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REDACTED

By e-mail: REDACTED

Our ref: FOI2022/06832
7 April 2022

Dear REDACTED

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: ICT Documents for the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Thank you for your request for information of 23 March 2022 about ICT Documents for the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

1. *ICT/IM&T/IS Strategy- The IT department strategy or plans, highlights their current and future objectives.*

Our IT Strategy is contained within the Defra Outcome Delivery Plan which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-environment-food-and-rural-affairs-outcome-delivery-plan>

As the information is reasonably accessible by other means, section 21 of the FOIA exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

2. *ICT Org Chart- A visual document that presents the structure of the IT department, please include name and job titles. If this cannot be sent, please work towards a structure with job titles.*

Please find attached within this email response, labelled 'FOI2022_06832 Annex C', a structure chart reflecting the senior leadership team for Defra's Digital, Data and Technology Services.

After careful consideration we have decided that the names of the staff members who report to the Chief Digital and Information Officer should be withheld under sections 40(2) and 40(3A) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to persons other than you. These sections exempt personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).



We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data because the members of staff would not reasonably expect their names to be disclosed in relation to this request.

3. ICT Annual or Business Plan- Like the ICT strategy but is more annually focused.

Our ICT Annual/Business Plan is contained within the Defra Outcome Delivery Plan which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-environment-food-and-rural-affairs-outcome-delivery-plan>

As the information is reasonably accessible by other means, section 21 of the FOIA exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

4. ICT Capital Programme/budget- A document that shows financials budget on current and future projects.

The information you have requested is being withheld under section 43(2) of the FOIA, which relates to information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). In applying exemption 43(2) we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of information concerning details of public sector IT spend, and in particular ICT capital/programme budgets, as this helps promote transparency in government and reassurance that public money is being spent prudently.

However, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information as it would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial interests of Defra. This is because publishing the full breakdown of budgets would identify specific amounts involved and would thereby prejudice Defra's commercial interests in future tendering bids. It would not be in the public's interest if there was not a competitive tendering process to enable Defra to seek the best agreements.

Therefore, we have concluded that in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

Information Rights Team

InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>