



UK Hydrographic Office

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REF: FOI2022/15189

19 January 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 20th December requesting the following information:

“1. How many staff (as measured by full-time equivalents) do you employ to work on communications? Please include all internal and external communications including work on your website, media queries and social media.

2. What was your communication spending for the financial year 2021/22 and what is the budget for the current communications spending in the current financial year?”

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.

Some of the information has been withheld under Section 43 Commercial Interests. Section 43 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Section 43 has been applied because some of the information would prejudice the commercial interests of UKHO if released. The public interest test concluded that while release of this information would promote openness and transparency, the balance of the public interest lay in withholding this information.

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:

1. How many staff (as measured by full-time equivalents) do you employ to work on communications? Please include all internal and external communications including work on your website, media queries and social media.

**External communications figures have been withheld under S43.
Internal communications employ 5 FTE.**

2. What was your communication spending for the financial year 2021/22 and what is the budget for the current communications spending in the current financial year?"

**External communications figures have been withheld under S43.
Internal communications spending FY21-22 was £8,035.
Internal communications budget FY22-23 is £8,035.**