

Reference: 2024-005

Thank you for your email in which you requested the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

I would like to request the following information:

- 1. The annual departmental spend on the procurement of goods and services for each year from 2015-2023**
- 2. The percentage of annual departmental procurement spend on good and services that went through frameworks for each year from 2015-2023**
- 3. The percentage of annual departmental procurement spend that was directly awarded through a framework for each year from 2015-2023**

If possible, we would also like to know the following (if data is available):

- 4. The annual departmental spend on the procurement of services only for each year from 2015-2023**
- 5. The percentage of annual departmental procurement spend on services only that went through frameworks for each year from 2015-2023**
- 6. Each framework operator your department used and the annual procurement spend on goods and services through each (for each year from 2015-2023)**
- 7. Each framework operator your department used and the total procurement spend on services only through each (for each year from 2015-2023).**

Response

I can confirm that the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) holds the information you have requested. You will be able to find the information organised by financial year on the SFO website in our Annual Reports and Accounts (ARA) here: <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/publications/corporate-information/annual-reports-accounts/>.

Question 1

The information you have requested in relation to 2023 calendar year which has not yet been published is exempt by virtue of Section 22 (1)(a) of the FOIA. This section reads as follows:

Section 22 (1): Information is exempt if—

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not).*

How the exemption is engaged

Section 22 exempts the immediate release of information when it is planned for future publication. The information you have requested is currently being prepared for publication, and will be available in due course, therefore it is exempt under section 22 of the FOIA.

Public interest test

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and requires consideration of the public interest in order for the exemption to be maintained. More information about exemptions, the precedent effect, and the public interest test is available on the ICO's website at www.ico.org.uk. We recognise the public interest in regularly publishing information about the procurement of goods and services and the costs related to these figures. We understand the importance of transparency and publicising how the organisation spends public money in meeting this public interest. However, as explained above, the SFO takes steps to meet this by annually publishing these figures in the ARA, and the information requested for the financial year 2023-2024 is currently being processed. In addition, the public interest in releasing this information in response to individual FOI requests is ultimately outweighed by the public interest in releasing it consistently and in full.

Questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

The SFO does not hold this information in the format you have requested.