

Reference: 2024-055

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

| Q1. Can you please list the number of devices deployed by your organisation for the following? | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Device Type | Number of Devices |
| Desktop PCs | |
| Laptops | |
| Mobile Phones | |
| Printers | |
| Multi-Functional Devices (MFDs) | |
| Tablets | |
| Physical Servers | |
| Storage Devices (for example: NAS, SAN) | |
| Networking Infrastructure (for example: Switches, Routers, Interfaces, Wireless Access Points) | |
| Security Infrastructure (for example: Firewalls, Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS), Virus Monitoring Tools) | |

| Q2. Does your organisation plan to procure any of the below enterprise applications or software, if yes, please provide information in the below format. Please note, if the applications you're planning to procure are not listed below then do mention them separately. | 2024/25 Spend/Budget (£000) | 2025/26 Spend/Budget (£000) |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Content Management System | | |
| Supply Chain Management (SCM) | | |
| Inventory Management Software | | |
| Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Software | | |
| Business Intelligence Systems | | |
| Other software/apps (mention the name of the software) | | |

| Q3. Do you have any plans to procure End user devices (desktop/laptop/tablet/mobile phones etc)? if yes, please provide information in the below format. 2024/25 Spend/Budget (£000) | 2024/25 Spend/Budget (£000) | 2025/26 Spend/Budget (£000) |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Desktops | | |
| Laptops | | |
| Mobile Phones | | |
| Tablets and Others (if Others, please specify) | | |

| Q4. Do you have any plans to procure below services/software? if yes, please provide information in the below format. | 2024/25 Spend/Budget (£000) | 2025/26 Spend/Budget (£000) |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Artificial Intelligence (AI) | | |
| Cyber Security | | |

Response

Please see below our response to your questions in the order asked.

Question 1

We confirm that we hold this information. However, please note this is exempt from release under section 31(1) of the FOIA.

Section 31(1)(a), (b), and (c) provides that:

Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,*
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders,*
- (c) the administration of justice:*

How the exemption is engaged

As a law enforcement agency, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) holds highly sensitive information which is of interest to others, including those we investigate. Releasing detailed information about the SFO's IT systems and tools could therefore compromise our ability to protect SFO investigative material and information systems, thereby prejudicing the interests at (a) (b) and (c) above.

Public interest test

Sections 31(a), (b), and (c) are qualified exemptions and require consideration of whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in exempting this data outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. More information about exemptions in general and the public interest test is available on the ICO's website at www.ico.org.uk.

It is recognised that there is a general public interest in publicising information about the SFO, so that the public knows that serious fraud, bribery, and corruption are being investigated and prosecuted effectively, and so that the public can be reassured about the general conduct of our organisation and how public money is spent.

However, having considered the public interest in releasing this information, we consider that the stronger interest lies in maintaining these exemptions of the FOIA. Primarily, the risk that this information could pose to the SFO's security systems against which it is essential to safeguard given the highly sensitive nature of the information held as a law enforcement agency. Releasing sensitive information regarding IT software risks compromising the SFO's ability to provide and maintain data security for the cases at pre-investigation, investigation, prosecution stages and beyond.

Having considered the opposing arguments, I believe that the stronger public interest lies in exempting the information from release.

Question 2, 3 & 4

The SFO does not hold this information.