

Reference: 2024-089

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

Please detail the number of laptops, tablets and phones purchased by your department, as well as the average cost per device. Please provide this information by year (January to December, including 2024) for the past three years.

E.g.

January 2022 – December 2022:

- **Laptops – 56 purchased | average cost of £780**
- **Tablets – 12 purchased | average cost of £375**
- **Phones – 80 purchased | average cost of £290**

January 2023 – December 2023:

- **Laptops – 94 purchased | average cost of £790**
- **Tablets – 8 purchased | average cost of £375**
- **Phones – 55 purchased | average cost of £317**

January 2024 – December 2024:

- **Laptops – 112 purchased | average cost of £840**
- **Tablets – 27 purchased | average cost of £405**
- **Phones – 163 purchased | average cost of £336**

Response

The information you have requested are commercially sensitive and therefore engages section 43 (2) of the FOIA.

Section 43(2) of the FOIA deals with commercial interests and provides that:

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

How the exemption is engaged

The information requested could detriment to the SFO's commercial interests if released by weakening its negotiating position with future suppliers. It could also detriment the commercial interests of the supplier when engaging future clients. As such, this information is exempt from release under section 43(2) of the FOIA.

Public interest test

Section 43 of FOIA is a qualified exemption. As such, it requires consideration of whether the public interest in exempting the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing whether the public authority holds the information. More information about exemptions in general and the public interest test is available on the ICO's website at www.ico.org.uk.

We understand the importance of publicising information about the SFO's use of public resources and funding. However, we do not believe that the release of the information which you have requested would add significantly to these factors and therefore feel there is minimal public interest in releasing this material. Further, as outlined above, the SFO is compliant with the reporting requirements across government, which requires the publication of data surrounding procurement processes on the Contracts Finder website: [Contracts Finder - GOV.UK](https://contractsfinder.gov.uk).

I am content that the public interest test strongly favours nondisclosure of the information you have requested for the reasons outlined in the application of the exemption. In unduly releasing commercially sensitive information such as cost of IT equipment would likely hinder the SFO's ability to secure value for money and could harm future negotiations and procurement exercises.

I have therefore concluded that the balance of the public interest is in favour of not disclosing the information requested as the commercial interests weigh in favour of not sharing this detail externally.