

Reference: 2025-069

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 staff with 'data' in their job titles (data scientists / analysts), total salary of staff with 'data' in their job title, and total budget for 'data' spending e.g. staff, tech implementation, data management, each year for the past three years from July to June.

E.g.

July 2024 – June 2025

- **12 staff with 'data' in their job title**
- **£480,000 total salary of staff with 'data' in their job title**
- **£2,500,000 total budget for 'data' spending**

Response

Total budget for data spending

The SFO does not hold information in the specific format requested. We are therefore unable to provide the information sought under this part of your request.

Data staff and their salary information

The SFO holds information falling within the scope of this part of your request. However, we are withholding this information under section 40(2) of the FOIA, as it constitutes personal data relating to identifiable individuals.

Section 40(2) states that personal data which is not the personal data of the requester (i.e. third-party personal data) should not be disclosed if this would contravene the data protection principles. This would constitute a breach of the first data protection principle outlined in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which states that "personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject".

How the exemption is engaged

We maintain that releasing information about individual members of staff to the world at large could not reasonably be interpreted as "fair" processing because the Data Subject would have a reasonable expectation that their personal data would not be disclosed in this way.

Section 40(2) of the FOIA is an absolute exemption and we are therefore not required to consider the public interest in releasing the information requested.