

Reference: 2025-083

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

I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the contract below.

SFO-INTEL-EQUIFAX-FINANCIAL CHECKS:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/notice/ca7ed016-711a-4b23-9dda-f0eb0e610880>

The details we require are:

- 1. What are the contractual performance KPI's for this contract?**
- 2. Actual spend on this contract/framework (and any sub lots), from the start of the contract to the current date**
- 3. Has a decision been made yet on whether the framework(s)/contract(s) are being either extended or renewed?**
- 4. Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?**

Response

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

Questions 1, 2, and 3

The information we hold is 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 requested information 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 disclosing information in relation to this particular contract 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://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk). We 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.

Question 4

John Kielty – Chief Intelligence Office