

Reference: 2025-114

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 have plans to procure any of the below services, if yes then please provide information in the below format?	2025/26 Spend/ Budget	2026/27 Spend/ Budget	27/28 Spend/ Budget	28/29 Spend/ Budget
Example: Platform as a Service	1,000,000		200000	
a. Cloud computing				
b. Software as a Service (SaaS)				
c. Platform as a Service (PaaS)				
d. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)				
e. Anything as a Service (XaaS)				

Q3. Does your organisation have any plans to procure the below services, if yes then please provide required information in the below format?	2025/26 Spend/ Budget	2026/27 Spend/ Budget	27/28 Spend/ Budget	28/29 Spend/ Budget
Example: IoT security	50000	50000	80000	
a. Network Security				
b. Cloud Security				
c. Endpoint Security				
d. IoT Security				

e. Application Security				
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Q4. Does your organisation have any plans to procure below services, if yes then please provide information in the below format?	2025/26 Spend/ Budget	2026/27 Spend/ Budget	27/28 Spend/ Budget	28/29 Spend/ Budget
Example: Data and Analytics	1750000	2000000		
a. Data and Analytics				
b. AI and Automation				
c. Digital Transformation				
d. ERP Systems				

Q5. Has your organisation implemented any form of AI or Automation services, and if not, what is the reason for not implementing?	Yes	No	Reason
Example: Yes, Example: No, Legacy System			
a. Implemented			
b. Minor implementation with completed AI strategy			
c. Plans to develop implementation			
d. Due to legacy systems			

Response

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

Questions 1 – 4

We confirm that we hold this information. However, 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 5

Yes, the SFO has implemented AI and automation services. One example is our Technology Assisted Review (TAR) service, which is publicly available and can be accessed at: [Serious Fraud Office sets out next steps in ambitious plan - GOV.UK](#).