



Government Legal Department

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[REDACTED]

Ref No: FOI 25_025

21/02/2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5th February 2025 which contained your request for information. The Government Legal Department ("GLD") have processed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Request

I'd like to know more about how government departments use GenAI.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to know the following:

- Are staff within the department under a general instruction to use AI or Generative AI tools to assist your work?*
- Is your department currently using AI tools or Generative AI tools to assist your work? If so, what is your department's budget for (Gen) AI tools?*
- Has your department instructed the agencies and bodies working for your department to use AI as part of their work?*
- Can you name the AI tools that your department uses?*
- Does your department have an AI strategy?*
- If your department does not have an AI strategy, is it planning to have an AI strategy?*

If it looks like this request will take more time than is allowed under the FOIA, please only respond to the first two points. If it looks like this will still take too long, please let me know immediately so I can amend the scope of the request.

Response

Pursuant to Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, GLD informs you that it does hold the information you have requested.

Staff in GLD are not under a general instruction to use AI or generative AI tools, but AI is such a broad category that it encompasses much of the technology we use day to day (including some we are required to use, such as our time recording system). In terms of generative AI tools, the only one we have issued for use is MS365 CoPilot, which we are currently trialling to a limited number of people. The total cost of the licences is £42,305.80. Our staff also have access to other generative AI tools, such as those made freely available by suppliers. Our staff are able to use them for non-sensitive work, and subject to guidelines about safe use and data security.

GLD hasn't instructed other bodies that do work for us to use GenAI for those purposes. However, in line with the Government's AI Action Plan, we're keen to explore the possibilities in that space. We do have an AI strategy.

Your Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original correspondence. Please use the contact details provided at the top of this letter in order to request an internal review relating to your original request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ICO.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

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