

Reference: 2026-071

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

I would like to know the following information about your organisation year on year for the past three years (including this year) from September to August.

Please detail the total salary of staff in data science and data analyst roles, the number of staff in data science and data analyst roles.

September 2025 – August 2026:

- **Total data scientist and data analyst salary: £480,000**
- **Number of data analyst and data scientist staff: 8**

Response

Data staff and their salary information

The SFO holds some of the information falling within the scope 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, identifiable 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.