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Ref No: **FOI 25_110**

25th June 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4th June 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 am conducting a research project into how public sector organisations procure cyber security services and enterprise software platforms. As part of this, I would be grateful if you could provide the most recent contract information you hold for the following areas:

1. Standard Firewall (Network)

Firewall services that protect the organisation's network from unauthorised access and other internet security threats.

2. Anti-virus Software Application

Programs designed to prevent, detect, and remove viruses, malware, trojans, adware, and related threats.

3. Microsoft Enterprise Agreement

A volume licensing agreement that may include:

- *Microsoft 365 (Office, Exchange, SharePoint, Teams)*
- *Windows Enterprise*
- *Enterprise Mobility + Security (EMS)*
- *Azure services (committed or pay-as-you-go)*

4. Microsoft Power BI

Or any alternative business intelligence platform used for data connectivity, dashboards, and reporting.

For each of the above areas, I kindly request the following:

1. *Who is the existing supplier for this contract?*
2. *What is the annual spend for each contract?*
3. *What is the description of the services provided?*
4. *Primary brand (where applicable)*
5. *What is the start date of the contract?*
6. *What is the expiry date of the contract?*
7. *What is the total duration of the contract?*
8. *Who is the responsible contract officer?*
 - *Please include at least their job title, and where possible, name, contact number, and direct email address*
9. *How many licences or users are included (where applicable)?*

Important Notes

- *I do not request any technical specifications such as device models, serial numbers, IP ranges, or site-level infrastructure details that may pose a security or operational risk.*
- *If full disclosure of named personnel is not possible under Section 40 of the FOI Act, I would still appreciate disclosure of job titles and generic contact information, such as a team inbox or switchboard extension.*
- *If any commercial sensitivities under Section 43 apply, I respectfully request a clear explanation of the specific harm expected from disclosing aggregated annual spend or supplier names, especially where the contract has already been awarded.*
- *This request is made in line with the principles of the Procurement Act 2023, which reinforces the importance of transparency and public access to contract information, particularly around supplier identity, contract value, and duration.*

Response

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

For the areas requested, we confirm that contracts exist, but we are withholding certain information under the relevant exemptions as follows:

1. Standard Firewall (Network)

Supplier: Withheld under Section 31(1)(a)

Annual Spend: Withheld under Section 43(2)

Service Description: Withheld under Section 31(1)(a)

Primary Brand: Withheld under Section 31(1)(a)

Contract Start Date February 2023

Contract Expiry Date: January 2026

Total Duration: 3 Years

Responsible Officer: Job title provided – Head of Digital Operations. Name, direct contact details withheld under Section 40(2).

Number of Licences/Users: Withheld under Section 31(1)(a)

2. Anti-virus Software Application

Supplier: Withheld under Section 31(1)(a)

Annual Spend: Withheld under Section 43(2)

Service Description: Withheld under Section 31(1)(a)

Primary Brand: Withheld under Section 31(1)(a)

Contract Start Date: 14/08/24

Contract Expiry Date: 13/08/25

Total Duration: 12 months

Responsible Officer: Job title provided – Head of Digital Operations. Name and contact details withheld under Section 40(2).

Number of Licences/Users: Withheld under Section 31(1)(a)

3. Microsoft Enterprise Agreement

Supplier: Withheld under Section 43(2)

Annual Spend: Withheld under Section 43(2)

Service Description: Licensing agreement covering Microsoft 365, Azure, Windows Enterprise

Primary Brand: Microsoft

Contract Start Date: 1 October 2024

Contract Expiry Date: 30 September 2027

Total Duration: 3 years

Responsible Officer: Job title provided – Head of Digital Operations. Name and contact details withheld under Section 40(2).

Number of Licences/Users: Withheld under Section 43(2)

4. Microsoft Power BI (or alternative BI platform)

Supplier: Included within Microsoft Enterprise Agreement

Annual Spend: Withheld under Section 43(2)

Service Description: Used internally for dashboarding and reporting.

Primary Brand: Power BI

Contract Start Date: part of broader ELA

Contract Start Date: 1 October 2024

Contract Expiry Date: 30 September 2027

Responsible Officer: Job title provided – Head of Digital Operations. Name and contact details withheld under Section 40(2).

Number of Licences/Users: Withheld under Section 43(2)

Exemptions Applied and Justifications

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

We have withheld information relating to our firewall and antivirus tools and services — including supplier names, brands, user volumes, and detailed service descriptions — as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. Publicly revealing these details could assist malicious actors in identifying our digital infrastructure, exposing us to cyber-attack risks.

A public interest test has been carried out, and while transparency in procurement is important, the need to protect critical ICT systems from exploitation outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 40(2) – Personal Information

The names, direct email addresses, and phone numbers of responsible officers have been withheld. Disclosure would breach UK GDPR principles as this constitutes personal data and the individuals involved have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Job titles and generic team contact points are provided where appropriate.

Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests

We have withheld specific financial values (e.g. annual spend and licence volumes) and, in some cases, supplier names under Section 43(2), where we believe that disclosure would prejudice the

commercial interests of the organisation or its suppliers. This may include impacts on future contract negotiations or supplier competitiveness.

We have conducted a public interest test and found that while public access to contract information is important, this must be balanced against the risk of commercial harm. In these cases, the balance favours withholding the information.

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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