



Government Legal Department

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Ref No: **FOI 25_085**

7th May 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 April 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 requesting the number of department computers or laptops running on legacy IT systems. Please provide the following:

1. *The number of department computing devices, including laptops, desktops, and tablets, that are running on PC Windows versions:*
 - a. *Windows 11 23H2*
 - a. *Windows 10 22H2*
 - a. *Windows 8.1*
 - a. *Windows 7*
 - a. *Windows XP/Vista*
2. *The number of department computing devices, including laptops, desktops, and tablets, that are running on Windows Server versions:*
 - a. *Windows Server 2022*
 - a. *Windows Server 2016*
 - a. *Windows Server 2012/R2*
 - a. *Windows Server 2008/R2*
 - a. *Windows Server 2003/R2*
 - a. *Windows Server 2000*
 - a. *Windows NT 4.0 Server*
3. *The number of department computer devices, including laptops, desktops, and tablets, that are running on Apple macOS Server versions:*
 - a. *macOS Server 5.12.2*
 - a. *macOS Server 5.10-5.11*
 - a. *macOS Server 5.0-5.5 or earlier versions*
4. *The number of department computer devices, including laptops, desktops, and tablets, that are running on Apple macOS versions for desktop and laptops:*
 - a. *macOS 14*
 - a. *macOS 12*
 - a. *macOS 10.13 or earlier versions*

Response

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

However, following careful consideration, we are withholding the information under section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement of the Act. This exemption applies because disclosing the detailed breakdown of devices running legacy operating systems could prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, by exposing potential vulnerabilities in our IT infrastructure. Legacy systems may have known security flaws, and confirmation of their use may present an increased risk of cyberattack.

In applying this exemption, we have considered the public interest arguments for and against disclosure. We recognise that there is a public interest in promoting transparency about the department's use of technology and its approach to IT modernisation. However, we consider that this is outweighed by the strong public interest in safeguarding the security and integrity of government IT systems.

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,

Freedom of Information Team

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