

25 August 2023

IC-247737-N3S0

Request

You asked us:

"Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to know the following information about your organisation year on year for the past three years from August to July.

Please detail the total IT budget of the department, number of staff in IT roles, total salary of IT staff."

We received your request on 27 July 2023.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

Our response

I have consulted with the relevant areas of the ICO and I can confirm that we hold the information in scope of your request. However, retrieving the information would exceed the cost limit set out by section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 states that the 'appropriate limit' for the ICO is £450. We have determined that £450 would equate to 18 hours work.

The reason that it is not possible to retrieve the information within the cost limit is that the date range that you have provided, August to July, is not how we typically record information. We would typically record and report information for financial years.

Whilst the request appears to be straight forward, to find all of the information that you have requested would involve multiple departments retrieving information to provide an answer within that date range. The departments would include HR, Finance and IT. During the time period that you have requested the ICO had a change in IT systems, so to extract the relevant information we would

need to use an archived system to find the information, which again would add time/cost into the process of retrieving the information.

Advice and assistance

If you were to request information for financial years then we may be able to provide you with further information. We would need to consider if it is in the public interest for us to dedicate the resources necessary to carry out this kind of search, or whether it represents an unreasonable burden on us as a public authority.

We do have some information available to provide you which you may find useful.

I can confirm that within our IT dept we had the following number of staff. Please note this is in financial years.

2020/21

Total 48

2021/22

Total 60

2022/23

Total 58

We also have our annual reports available [here](#). This outlines some of the IT expenditure during the financial years.

We also have our [Income and expenditure | ICO](#) pages available on our website. The expenditure section outlines our payments over £25,000 and includes various IT related expenses.

This concludes our response to your request.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full review procedure [here](#).

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA and EIR. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint through our website](#).

Your information

Our [Privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and set out your rights. Our retention schedule can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Senior Information Access Officer



Information Access Team
Risk and Governance Department, Corporate Strategy and
Planning Service
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water
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