

12 September 2022

Case Reference IC-186099-M6J4

Your request

You asked us for the following:

"In July, the ICO held an event in London to launch the new 'ICO25' strategy. An attendee wrote an article for Fintech Magazine where they said they had been invited to the event:

<https://fintechmagazine.com/financial-services-finserv/why-fintechs-should-welcome-a-pragmatic-approach-to-privacy>

I would like to ask for information about this.

- 1) The names, job titles and organisations that were invited.*
- 2) Recorded information about how invitees were selected.*
- 3) Any information provided to attendees that is not already in the public domain, including the text of the invitation.*
- 4) The total costs of the event, including what the money was spent on.*
- 5) The names and job titles of all ICO staff who attended, and recorded information how they travelled to the event.*
- 6) Any recorded information about why a specific, invite-only event was deemed to be necessary for the ICO25 launch when the ICO was already holding an event within days of this one at which the ICO25 strategy was mentioned (i.e. the DPPC). Given the ICO25 document states that the ICO seeks to minimise " the environmental impact of our work at all times", it seems odd to hold a separate in-person event when the DPPC was also happening."*

Where your questions satisfy the criteria of a valid information request, we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Our response

We can confirm that the ICO holds information within scope of this request.

Please find attached the information in scope which we have identified. This includes:

1. A list of attendee organisations
2. Internal discussions on the selection of attendees
3. General communications and templates of communications sent to attendees
4. Venue costs
5. Expense claims
6. ICO staff in attendance
7. Other relevant information around the organisation of the event, including comments on the rationale behind the event.

Please note:

- The personal data of attendees has been withheld under section 40(2) of the FOIA unless we consider such information reasonable to disclose (such as in the case of Members of Parliament). We have also redacted the mobile telephone numbers of members of ICO staff under this exemption. In some cases, more than one delegate attended for each organisation.
- Regarding costs, we have excluded costs that would have been incurred had the event not taken place, for example when staff were travelling to London for other engagements.
- Regarding selection, there was discussion around the application of 'priority levels' when considering invitations. However, this was not ultimately applied and all eligible attendees were invited.

This concludes our response.

We hope you find this information helpful.