



[REDACTED]

17 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00016

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 15 January in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Can I please make a request under the Freedom of Information Act and I would like to request the following information about the organisation's Local Area Network (LAN) environment.

You may have received the same request in the past and this information sent has now expired and I require an update as soon as possible for the following information

Please can you send me the organisation's Local Area Network (LAN) contract, which may include the following:

- *Support and Maintenance- e.g. switches, router, software etc*
- *Managed- If this includes services than just LAN.*

1.1. Contract Type: Managed or Maintenance

1.2. Existing Supplier: Who is the current supplier?

1.3. Annual Spend for each supplier: What is the annual average spending on the supplier above? If there is more than one supplier please split the annual average spend for each supplier.

1.4. Number of Users: Please can you provide me with the number of users this contract covers. Approximate number of users will also be acceptable.

1.5. Number of Sites: The number of sites, where equipment is supported by each contract.

1.6. Hardware Brand: What is the hardware brand of the LAN equipment?

1.7. Contract Description: Please provide me with a brief description of the overall contract.

1.8. Contract Duration: What is the duration of the contract is and can you please also include any extensions this may include.

1.9. Contract Expiry Date: When does the contract expire?

1.10. Contract Review Date: When will the organisation be planning to review the contract?

1.11. Responsible Officer: Contact details including name, job title, contact number and email address?

If the LAN maintenance is included in-house please include the following information:

2.1. Hardware Brand: What is the hardware brand of the LAN equipment?

2.2. Number of Users: Please can you provide me with the number of users this contract covers. Approximate number of users will also be acceptable.

2.3. Number of Sites: Estimated/Actual number of sites the LAN covers.

2.4. Responsible Officer: Who within the organisation is responsible for LAN please provide me with contact details including name, job title, contact number and email address?

If the contract is managed by a 3rd party e.g. Can you please provide me with

- 3.1. *Existing Supplier: Who is the current supplier?*
- 3.2. *Number of Users: Please can you provide me with the number of users this contract covers. Approximate number of users will also be acceptable.*
- 3.3. *Number of Sites: Estimated/Actual number of sites the LAN covers.*
- 3.4. *Contract Type: Managed, Maintenance, Installation, Software*
- 3.5. *Hardware Brand: What is the hardware brand of the LAN equipment?*
- 3.6. *Contract Description: Please provide me with a brief description of the overall contract.*
- 3.7. *Contract Duration: What is the duration of the contract is and can you please also include any extensions this may include.*
- 3.8. *Contract Expiry Date: When does the contract expire?*
- 3.9. *Contract Review Date: When will the organisation be planning to review the contract?*
- 3.10. *Responsible Officer: Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contract(s) please provide me with contact details including name, job title, contact number and email address?*

Our response

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold the information relevant to your request. We have updated the expired LAN contract information attached at Annex 1 FOI2021/00016.

Updated answers to questions 1.1 to 1.5, and 1.7 to 1.10 have been provided under tab 'LAN Contract'.

Updated answers to the questions 2.2 and 2.3 can be found under tab 'LAN in-house'.

Updated answers to the questions 3.1 to 3.4, and 3.6 to 3.9 have been provided under tab 'LAN Managed by 3rd Party'.

We maintain the exemptions applied in our previous response FOI2020/00053; Section 31(1)(a) prevention and detection of crime, section 43(2) commercially sensitive and Section 40(2) personal data. The previous exemptions and public interest test arguments have been provided below for your reference.

Section 31(1)(a) - prevention and detection of crime

We have maintained exemption 31(1)(a) - prevention and detection of crime to withhold the LAN hardware brand requested in questions 1.6, 2.1, and 3.5: '*Hardware Brand: What is the hardware brand of the LAN equipment?*'.

Releasing the information requested regarding Local Area Networks for UKRI as noted above, would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime as per Section 31(1)(a) Freedom of Information Act. Section 31(1)(a) is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to a public interest test.

UKRI applied the Public Interest Test to this request as set out below;

Public interest in favour of disclosure:

- There is a public interest in favour of release of the information, to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability, in disclosing information about government or public authority infrastructure and contracts.

Public interest test in favour of withholding the information:

- The release of this information would make UKRI vulnerable to crime, such as malicious attacks on UKRI's computer infrastructure and/or systems.
- The release of this information would be seen to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, by making UKRI's computer systems more vulnerable to hacking and therefore facilitate the possibility of a criminal offence being carried out.
- There is an overwhelming public interest in keeping public authority computer systems secure, which would be best served by non-disclosure.

UKRI therefore reached the conclusion that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding the selected information under Section 31(1)(a). Please note that our application of this exemption was challenged in our first response to you (FOI 2019/0016) and the decision was consequently upheld following an internal review.

Section 43(2) Commercially Sensitive

UKRI has maintained that the organisation's Local Area Network (LAN) contracts contain information commercially sensitive to the suppliers and will therefore not be releasing copies of these documents. Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, Commercial interests, has therefore been applied. Releasing UKRI's Local Area Network (LAN) contracts or disclosing expenditure on individual suppliers would constitute the disclosure of commercially sensitive information. Section 43 is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to a Public Interest Test. Our previous arguments are set out below:

Public interest in favour of disclosure:

- There is a general public interest in the disclosure of this information to ensure transparency and openness of a public organisation.
- There is also a public interest in the transparency in order to ensure accountability of public organisations and how they spend public money.

Public interest test in favour of withholding the information:

- Releasing information provided in confidence to UKRI is likely to damage the possibility of ongoing relationships with other organisations. Relationships may become untenable if third parties cannot be certain that their commercial information will remain confidential if it is held by UKRI
- Breaching the commercial interests may also adversely affect future negotiation opportunities for UKRI. UKRI may be seen as a 'confidentiality' risk if it routinely releases information relating to business arrangements into the public domain, particularly where this is third party information.
- Contracts contain information commercially sensitive to the supplier, which if released may harm future commercial opportunities.
- Contracts contain information that the supplier would not anticipate UKRI releasing. UKRI has reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding the selected information under section 43(2) of the FOI Act, Prejudice to Commercial Interests.

Section 40(2) personal data

We have maintained the application of section 40(2) in response to questions 1.11, 2.4, and 3.10: '*Responsible Officer: Contact details including name, job title, contact number and email address*'.

We are not obliged, under section 40(2) of the FOIA, to provide information that is the personal data of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance we believe that the release of information would contravene the first data protection principle and therefore section 40(2) has been applied. The individuals concerned would not have an expectation that this information would be made publicly available. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and therefore a public interest test is not required.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance
Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


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