



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1590

Date 14 February 2023

THE SALE OF FORWARD CATERING SERVICES

Thank you for your request of 26 January 2023 in relation to the sale of Forward Catering Services. You wrote "You supplied the Astra clause information for the metropolitan Police which can be found online supplied by yourselves. Therefore, find it strange that you have no record!"

You asked us to handle your request in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Based on the information you provided we have conducted a thorough search of our audit records and archives. We do hold some information within the scope of your request. Our report on the 'Sales of Forward Catering Services Limited' published on 3 February 1995 contains some details related to TUPE in section 2 'Treatment of staff' and is available [here](#).

We found that our audit files from that period were destroyed in 2012 in accordance with our retention policy which governs how long we need to keep different types of information. In general, reports and accounts are only retained for 6 years.

Additionally, we would have supported Parliament's Committee of Public Accounts in producing its report "Sale of Forward Catering Services Limited" in 1994/95. Our records in relation to this would have been destroyed in line with our retention policy. However, you may wish to approach Parliament yourself or check their website to find out if they still hold any transcript or reports concerning the sale of Forward Catering Services. You can do that [here](#)

I hope you find this information helpful. **Annex A** sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team

157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London SW1W 9SP
020 7798 7000 www.nao.org.uk



Cert No. 8835

ISO 14001

Annex A

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI.requests@nao.org.uk or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

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: <https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.