



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000

Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264

Email FOI@nao.org.uk

Reference FOI-1594

Date 14 March 2023

ICT DOCUMENTS 2023 ONWARD

Thank you for your request of 14 February 2023 for information relating to the National Audit Office's (NAO's) ICT and corporate procurement strategy.

Your request is being handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The specific information you requested, and our response, can be found at Annex A. Please find the documents in scope of your request that are mentioned in our response attached to this letter's cover email.

We hope you find this response helpful. Annex B 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 the FOIA.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team

Annex A

Request for information documents relating to the NAO’s ICT and corporate procurement strategy.

“I would like to request some information under the freedom of information act. I would like the organisation to provide me with the following departmental documents around ICT and corporate procurement. Many organisations within your region have different document title names:

1. 2023/24 IT Department Documents; - these types of documents have detailed information on the department's future plans and strategies. These documents could include: ICT Strategy/Plan, ICT Department Plan, ICT Financial Plan
2. ICT Org Chart; - with names and job titles
3. Corporate Procurement Strategy that covers 2023/24 and more.

For all the documents I have requested, please provide me with the 2023/24 documents, I only want to only receive documents that are live and valid. If the document is a strategic plan (e.g., 2020-2025) that covers a set number of years, please provide me with the 2023 version. I also require the full version of the documents I have requested, if any parts of the document is missing, please state this in the response. If this cannot be provided, please provide me with information on when this version will be available.”

NAO response

We can confirm that we hold some information in scope of your request. Our responses to the specific points in your request are as follows:

1. We have provided you with a copy of the NAO’s Digital Plan 2020-23 which has been reviewed and updated since we wrote to you in September 2022. We can confirm that this document remains current. We have also enclosed the Digital Services infographic document which summaries the NAO’s technological capabilities, contracts, and services.

The latest information on the NAO’s Capital Costs is as follows:

ICT Capital Costs	
2023-24	
Project or spend detail	Total for 2023-24
Surface Hubs	£110,000
VC cameras large rooms	£65,000
VC cameras medium rooms	£75,000
Auditorium refresh	£250,000
Monitors	£175,000
Laptops	£160,000
Infrastructure	£100,000
Desktops	£15,000
	£950,000

2. Our Digital Services Organisation Chart of August 2022 is attached – this is an anonymised version and does not include names of individuals, which we consider to be exempt under section 40(2) of the FOIA - please see Annex B.
3. The NAO does not produce a corporate procurement strategy. However, you may wish to have a look at the [The National Audit Office's five-year strategy 2020 to 2025 \(nao.org.uk\)](https://nao.org.uk) and the [NAO Strategy; Progress update and estimate memorandum for 2022-23](#) which may be helpful.

Section 40, Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Personal information

Section 40, paragraphs 1-4, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) provides that:

(1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—

(a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and

(b) the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.

(3A) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act—

(a) would contravene any of the data protection principles, or

(b) would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

(3B) The second condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene Article 21 of the GDPR (general processing: right to object to processing).

(4A) The third condition is that—

(a) on a request under Article 15(1) of the GDPR (general processing: right of access by the data subject) for access to personal data, the information would be withheld in reliance on provision made by or under section 15, 16 or 26 of, or Schedule 2, 3 or 4 to, the Data Protection Act 2018, or

(b) on a request under section 45(1)(b) of that Act (law enforcement processing: right of access by the data subject), the information would be withheld in reliance on subsection (4) of that section.

Reasons why we have applied this exemption

We are not obliged under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing this information would contravene any of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018. We have withheld the names of NAO staff as we consider that releasing the names of these individuals would contravene the first data protection principle which is that the processing of personal data must be lawful, fair and transparent. Processing in this context includes disclosure and therefore we consider section 40(2) to be engaged. In this instance, we do not believe it would be fair to the data subjects to disclose their personal information to all. This exemption is absolute and is not subject to the public interest test.

Annex C

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