



National Audit Office

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Reference FOI-1541

Date 1 September 2022

NAO'S ICT DOCUMENTS

Thank you for your request of 3 August 2022 for documents relating to the National Audit Office's (NAO)'s plans and strategy for ICT.

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 attached to this letter's cover email. We have included our Digital Plan 2020-22 document which was previously provided to you in response to your earlier FOI request of 2021 (ref: FOI-1443) - we are attaching this again for your convenience. We have redacted some personal data, from the information released, under the section 40(2) exemption of the FOIA. Details of this exemption can be found at Annex B.

We hope you find this response helpful. Annex C 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.

Yours sincerely

NAO FOI Team

Annex A

Request for information documents relating to the NAO's plans and strategy for ICT

"I wish to submit a request for some of the organisation's information around the internal plans and strategy documents around ICT.

*The ICT documents I require are the most recent update (2022 onwards documents)
I wish to obtain the following documents:*

- 1. ICT/IM&T/IS Strategy- The IT department strategy or plans, highlights their current and future objectives.*
- 2. ICT Org Chart- A visual document that presents the structure of the IT department, please include name and job titles. If this cannot be sent, please work towards a structure with job titles.*
- 3. ICT Annual or Business Plan- Like the ICT strategy but is more annually focused.*
- 4. ICT Capital Programme/budget- A document that shows financials budget on current and future projects.*

If some of these documents are not valid, please state when the 2022 onwards ICT documents are planned to be published."

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 provided you with a copy of the NAO's Digital Plan 2020-22 (updated July 2020) in response to your previous request (FOI-1443) of 6 April 2021. We can confirm that this document remains current and has not been updated further. For your convenience, we are again providing this document – as before, personal data has been redacted under section 40(2) of the FOIA - please see Annex B.
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. We explained in our response to your last FOI request that the NAO did not produce an ICT Annual or Business Plan. We can confirm that this is still the case, so we do not hold information in scope of this part of your request.
4. The latest information on the NAO's Capital Programme/budget is as follows:

ICT Capital Costs	
2022-23	
Project or spend detail	Total for 2022-23
Laptops & Mobile phones	£2,542,520
Infrastructure including VC	£123,992
	£2,666,512

In addition to the above information, we are providing a Digital Services Infographic document, which summarises DS services and costs on one page.

Annex B

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 below Director level 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