



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending watchdog

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Reference FOI-1542

Date 2 September 2022

PRINTING FACILITIES AT THE NAO

Thank you for your request of 4 August 2022 for information relating to printing facilities at the National Audit Office (NAO).

Your request is being handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We can confirm that we hold information in scope of your request - please see Annex A where we have reproduced your specific request along with our full response.

We have withheld some personal data under section 40(2) of the FOIA – please see Annex B for an explanation of this exemption and how it applies to your request.

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 relating to printing facilities at the NAO

"I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. *Does the organisation currently have an onsite central print facility for staff?*
2. *If so, what is the annual turnover for the print facility?*
3. *If so, does the central print facility outsource any of the following items of work?*
 - a. *Digital Print – small and large jobs?***
 - i. If so, who is the current contract with?*
 - ii. If so, what is the annual spend?*
 - iii. If so, when is the contract due for renewal?*
 - iv. Was the existing contract procured via a framework? If so, what framework was used for the procurement of the contract?*
 - v. Please confirm the name or job role of the employee that is responsible for this contract within your organisation.*
 - b. *Large Format Print – including pop up banners , storage and set up?***
 - i. If so, who is the current contract with?*
 - ii. If so, what is the annual spend?*
 - iii. If so, when is the contract due for renewal?*
 - iv. Was the existing contract procured via a framework? If so, what framework was used for the procurement of the contract?*
 - v. Please confirm the name or job role of the employee that is responsible for this contract within your organisation.*
4. *If there is no central print facility for staff / students who undertakes the following items of work?*
 - a. *Digital Print – small and large jobs?***
 - i. If so, who is the current contract with?*
 - ii. If so, what is the annual spend?*
 - iii. If so, when is the contract due for renewal?*
 - iv. Was the existing contract procured via a framework? If so, what framework was used for the procurement of the contract?*
 - v. Please confirm the name or job role of the employee that is responsible for this contract within your organisation.*
 - b. *Large Format Print – including pop up banners , storage and set up?***
 - i. If so, who is the current contract with?*
 - ii. If so, what is the annual spend?*
 - iii. If so, when is the contract due for renewal?*
 - iv. Was the existing contract procured via a framework? If so, what framework was used for the procurement of the contract?*
 - v. Please confirm the name or job role of the employee that is responsible for this contract within your organisation.*

I would like the above information to be provided to me as an electronic copy. If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters.

If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary."

NAO response

The answers to your specific numbered questions appear in the table, below. We have withheld some personal data under the section 40(2) exemption of the FOIA – please see Annex B for details of this exemption and how it applies to your request.

1	No
2	n/a
3	No
3 a	No
a-i	n/a
a-ii	n/a
a-iii	n/a
a-iv	n/a
a-v	n/a
b	No
b-i	n/a
b-ii	n/a
b-iii	n/a
b-iv	n/a
b-v	n/a
4	
a-i	SLS Print
a-ii	£18,000
a-iii	28/01/2026
a-iv	No
a-v	naofinance@nao.org.uk Name and direct contact details of NAO staff withheld under s.40(2)
b-i	SLS Print
b-ii	£18,000
b-iii	28/01/2026
b-iv	No
b-v	naofinance@nao.org.uk Name and direct contact details of NAO staff withheld under s.40(2)

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 provided a service desk email address through which you may contact members of our procurement team, but have withheld the names and direct contact details of NAO staff as we consider that releasing these details 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