



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending watchdog

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Reference FOI-1546

Date 14 October 2022

CALL-OFF CONTRACTS

Thank you for your request of 20 September 2022 for information relating to the National Audit Office's (NAO)'s Call-off contracts. Your specific request is reproduced at **Annex A**.

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

We can confirm that we hold some information in scope of your request.

The information we hold on NAO Call-off Contracts is provided in the Excel spreadsheet attached to this letter's cover email. The information includes all contracts, including those that we are not required to publish, such as those issued under frameworks or quotations.

We have provided the information to the extent that we hold it. While the FOIA provides a legal right of access to recorded information held by a public authority, subject to certain exemptions that may apply, the FOIA does not oblige us to create or obtain information we do not hold.

As we previously advised in our letter to you of 14 July 2022, you may also wish to consult information that is publicly available on the published contract finder [database](#), which can be searched by authority name and filtered by various criteria. This information covers those contracts we are required to publish. For example, those subject to an Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notice.

I 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.

Yours sincerely

NAO FOI TEAM

Annex A

Request for information on NAO's contracts register

(Your request in italics, NAO response in plain text)

I would like to make a freedom of information request.

I am doing a research project investigating call-off contracts in the public sector. I have identified some potential call-off contracts awarded by the National Audit Office, but I can't find details of the framework agreements they were awarded from.

I have attached an Excel file that contains the information I am looking at. The last two columns ("Title of framework used" and "Contracts Finder or TED link of framework agreement") is where I am missing information - please could you fill these in.

Please note that I have identified these contracts as possible call-off contracts, so some of them might not be. Some could be, for instance, procured directly (without being called off from a framework agreement), or could be themselves notices of the establishment of a framework agreement. Therefore I would kindly ask you to specify in these incidences what kind of procurement was used in the "Title of framework used" column.

I have provided the title, description, details of the email contact from the notice, the publication date, and procedure type used to award each potential call-off, as well as a URL link to the call-off in question and a unique reference ID for each potential call-off. Please let me know if there is anything else you need to complete the request.

The NAO's Response

We hold information about the titles of frameworks. This information is provided in the attached spreadsheet. We do not hold information about Contracts Finder or TED links of framework agreement.

Annex B

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. We 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 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