



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending  
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1659

Date 11 October 2023

## CALL OFF CONTRACTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Thank you for your request of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for information about call-off contracts awarded by the National Audit Office (NAO).

Your request was handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We can confirm that we hold some of the information that you requested.

Your specific request is set out at **Annex A** and we have supplied our responses in the Excel spreadsheet attached with this letter.

**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 response is useful.

Yours sincerely,

**NAO FOI Team**



## **Annex A**

### **Request for information about NAO's call-off contracts:**

*"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 two 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 "Further framework info") is where I am missing information. Please could you provide the name of the specific framework agreements or DPS agreements used here. If there is any further info which you think would help me locate the framework agreements (e.g., a link to the framework's Contract Finder or FTS listing, the framework provider, or a widely-used reference number such as CCS's RM codes), please use the final column for this.*

*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."*

### **NAO response:**

Please refer to the Excel spreadsheet attached for the information that we hold in scope of your request ("Title of framework used").

We do not hold the information requested in Column H of the spreadsheet ("further framework info (e.g., link to framework Contract Finder award or CCS RM code").

## **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. 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](mailto: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 primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: [www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints). Alternatively, you can contact the ICO at [Contact us | ICO](#) or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.