



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending  
watchdog

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## PFI CONTRACTS EXPIRING IN NEXT 5 YEARS

Thank you for your request to the National Audit Office (NAO) dated 29 January 2025. You asked for information about *“Facilities in the Department for Healthcare, Department for Education, Ministry of Defence & Ministry of Justice with PFI contracts expiring in the next five years.”*

Your request has been handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The FOIA provides a legal right of access to recorded information held by a public authority, but it is subject to certain exemptions that may apply. While we hold the information you requested, we have decided to withhold it under Section 21 of the FOI Act (Information accessible to the applicant by other means). The information you requested is in public domain, and the published information is more up to date than our records. Details of this exemption can be found in **Annex A**.

### Reasons why we have applied Section 21

The information is published by HM Treasury and the Infrastructure and Projects Authority in the following dataset [PFI and PF2 projects: 2023 Summary Data - GOV.UK](#). It can be accessed via the [PFI Dashboard 2022-23 | Tableau Public](#) by filtering the results to get the contract expiry dates for each department. Alternatively, it is accessible in the OpenDocument spreadsheet [Current-PFI-PF2-projects-as-at-31-March-2023.ods](#) which you can sort by column C (Department) and Column N (Contract expiry date).

Our policy is to respond to requests as helpfully and promptly as possible. I hope this response is helpful and you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at [FOI@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI@nao.org.uk). 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: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team

## **Annex A**

**This annex sets out the exemptions we have applied to your request.**

### **Section 21 Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information accessible to applicant by other means.**

*(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.*

*(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) –*

*(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and*

*(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.*

*(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.*