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DISABILITY CONFIDENT SUBMISSION

Thank you for your FOI request dated 30 July 2025 for information on our submission for accreditation to be a Disability Confident Leader. We have considered your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and I have provided you with the information you requested. I have sent you the information in a zip file due to the number of documents included in the submission.

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 information in scope of your request, we have withheld some of the information because personal data is exempt under section 40(2) of the FOIA (personal information). Details of this exemption and how it applies to your request can be found in **Annex A**.

I hope this information is useful 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. 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

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 personal information about another person if releasing it would contravene any of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018.

We believe the release of the names and contact information of employees mentioned in some of the documents and correspondence provided to you would contravene the first data protection principle, which is that the processing of personal data must be lawful, fair and transparent. We have therefore redacted this information from the information we are releasing to you.