



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000
Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264
Email FOI@nao.org.uk

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WAN SERVICES

Thank you for your request of 12th November for information about the WAN services the National Audit Office has in place. You have asked us to handle your request in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You specifically asked, *"Some or all of the information previously provided may now be out of date, so I would be grateful if you could provide updated responses to the following questions."*

*Please address each section individually and, where multiple suppliers exist, provide information separately for each. **Contract 1 – Wide Area Network (WAN) Services (Including HSCN)***

- 1 WAN Provider(s)** Please confirm the main supplier(s) for your WAN services. If this information is not available, please explain why.
- 2 Contract Expiry Date** Please provide the expiry date for each WAN contract (DD/MM/YYYY or MM/YYYY acceptable). If rolling, please state the terms.
- 3 Contract Description** Please provide a brief summary of the scope of each WAN contract.
- 4 Number of Sites Covered** Please indicate the number of sites supported by the WAN. An approximation is acceptable.
- 5 Annual Average Spend** What is the annual average spend for WAN services? Please break this down by provider if more than one.
- 6 Procurement Route** Please provide details of how each WAN contract was procured. If a framework was used, please include the framework name and reference number.
- 7 Internal Contact Responsible Contact Person(s)** Please provide the full contact details for the person(s) responsible for each of the above contracts, including: Full name, Job title, Direct phone number and Email address."

We have provided the information you requested in the attached Excel spreadsheet. We have withheld certain information requested under section 40(2)(Personal information) exemption of the FOIA. Details of these exemptions and how they apply to your request can be found in **Annex A**.

Our policy is to respond to requests as helpfully and promptly as possible. Therefore, I hope this information 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. 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>. We hope you find this response helpful.

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

In this instance we believe the release of the direct contact details of individual National Audit Office officers 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) is engaged.

In this instance we do not believe it would be fair to the individual officers to disclose this personal information.

This exemption is absolute and is not subject to the public interest test.