



Norfolk County Council

at your service

Friday 5 March 2010

Dear Mr Hellard

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, I have now processed your request.

Please find the requested information stated below. This answers your request fully, except in respect of question (iv) where you have asked us to supply the postcodes of any data centres. We have withheld this information under section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act. Full details about our use of this exemption are provided below.

i) Who are the incumbent suppliers of the "basic connectivity (Layer 2)" for your Wide Area Network Services? Are any contracts due for renewal in the next six months?

We have one contract with BT with a renewal date 30/03/2014

ii) How many sites are there on your network and how many require high speed (greater than 1 Gig) connections?

There are 600 sites connected to the network. None of these sites have greater than a 1 Gbps connection.

iii) Do you build and operate your own network or do you use a Systems Integrator or Outsourcing company to do that? If so, please specify who and when the contract expires.

The contract is with BT and it expires on 30/03/2014

iv) How many Data Centres do you use and are they on council premises or third party premises? Please specify post codes for DC locations. If third party please specify the company and when the contract expires.

We have one main data centre based on council premises and another 'Backup Site' also based on council premises.

v) Do you operate your own Data Centres or do you use a System Integrator or Outsourcing company for that? If so, please specify who and when the contract expires.

We operate our own.

vi) Do you use "Co-location" Services ? If yes who is the supplier and when do the contracts need to be renewed?

No, we do not use "Co-location" Services.

Re post code data for question (iv)

Exemption Applied

Section 31(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides a qualified exemption for release of information if its disclosure would, or would likely prejudice:

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders,
- (c) the administration of justice,
- (d) the assessment or collection of any tax or duty or of any imposition or a similar nature,
- (e) the operation of the immigration controls,
- (f) the maintenance of security and good in prisons or in other institutions where persons are lawfully detained,
- (g) the exercise by any public authority of its functions for any of the purposes specified in subsection(2)
- (h) any civil proceedings which are brought by or on behalf of a public authority and arise out of an investigation conducted, for any of the purposes specified in subsection(2), by or on behalf of the authority by virtue of Her Majesty's prerogative or by virtue of powers conferred by or under an enactment, or
- (i) any inquiry held under the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiries (Scotland) Act 1976 to the extent that the inquiry arises out of an investigation conducted, for any of the purposes specified in ss(2) by or on behalf of the authority by virtue of Her Majesty's prerogative or by virtue of powers conferred by or under an enactment.

Subsection "(a) the prevention or detection of crime" applies in this case.

Reason why exemption applies

Providing the exact postcode of the two data centres would help an individual to locate them, increasing the risk that they could be specifically targeted for criminal activity. Releasing the information would therefore prejudice our ability to prevent crime.

Public Interest Test

There is a strong public interest in us being able to prevent crime in relation to our data centres. We recognise that there is a public interest in being confident that we are storing our data securely and appropriately; however we have stated that the data centres are on council premises and do not believe that providing the exact postcode of the data centres adds any great value to this in this respect. Therefore there is no strong public interest in favour of releasing the information and the reasons for withholding the information outweigh those for releasing it.

FOI Complaints procedure

You have the right of appeal through the Council's internal complaints procedure by setting out the grounds of your appeal in writing to the Corporate Freedom of Information Officer at:

Freedom of Information & Data Protection Unit, The Archive Centre,
Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DQ
e-mail: xxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx Telephone: 01603 222661

If you are dissatisfied after pursuing the complaints procedure, you may apply to the Information Commissioner under Section 50 of the Act for a decision whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of Part I of the Act. Contact details as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. e-mail: xxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx Telephone 01625 545 745.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Smith
Freedom of Information and Data Protection Assistant