

Information Management Services  
PO Box 70  
Morden  
Surrey  
SM4 9AE

By email  
Mr Francis Irving  
request-31518-08e6ca8x@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**Tel** 020 85442717

**Fax** 020 85449825

www.hmrc.gov.uk

**Date** 26 April 2010  
**Our Ref** FOI 1400/10  
**Your Ref**

Dear Mr Irving

**APPLICATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOI)**

I refer to your email dated 25 March 2010, requesting the following information under the FOIA.

*"In 2004, HMRC signed a deal called "Aspire" with Capgemini to supply IT services. It is described on the Capgemini website here: <http://www.uk.capgemini.com/aspire/>*

*Please send, or better upload to your website, copies of:*

- \* The original Aspire contract or contracts with Capgemini.*
- \* Supporting documents which effectively form a part of the contract.*
- \* Any later agreements that altered the contract.*

*The information I am seeking here is exact details of the services Capgemini contracted to supply, for what price, and under what terms.*

*If you cannot provide all the information, please give reasons under the FOI Act, but also give me any related or summary information you can."*

An applicant's right in section 1 Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) is to be informed if a public authority holds the information described in the request and, if that is the case, to

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Information is available in large print, audio tape and Braille formats.  
Type Talk service prefix number – 18001



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



have it communicated subject of course to other provisions of the Act such as costs and exemptions.

I can confirm that HMRC holds information that falls within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600 based on staff time at £25 per hour. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days determining if the department holds the information; it includes locating, retrieving and extracting it. By setting the limit at £600 HMRC believes that Parliament struck the right balance between an applicant's right to know and the amount of resource a public authority could reasonably be expected to apply to give effect to it. Consequently under section 12(1) of the FOIA the department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

If you are able to narrow the scope of your request, the department may be able to provide the information because it would cost less than the appropriate limit to do so. Any reformulated request will be treated as a fresh application. I would however point out that any reformulated request in respect of sight of Aspire contract or contracts with Capgemini would likely be refused if HMRC felt that putting information into the public domain would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Capgemini and / or its material subcontractors and / or HMRC

### **Additional Information**

Although, because of the fees regulations, the Act allows HMRC to decline to deal with the request as a whole, in the course of considering costs we did find some readily available information; I am providing it. This is given outside the Act and I hope you find it useful.

I enclose an overview of the ASPIRE contract which I hope provides you with information you require.

In addition and for your ease of reference I have attached

- A copy of the Public Accounts Committee Twenty-eighth Report of Session 2006-07 "HM Revenue and Customs ASPIRE – the re-competition of outsourced IT services".
- A copy of the National Audit Office's Report dated July 2006 "HM Revenue and Customs ASPIRE – the re-competition of outsourced IT services".

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If you are not happy with this reply you may request a review by writing to HMRC FOI Team, Room 1C/25, 100 Parliament Street London SW1A 2BQ. You must request a review within 2 months of the date of this letter. It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

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. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HMRC. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above on any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Tully' with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Eileen Tully  
HM Revenue and Customs  
Information Management Solutions  
Freedom of Information Manager