

27 July 2020

Our ref: NIC-390824-K7D8P

Dear Sir,

Re: Information Request – Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000

Thank you for your email dated 06 July 2020 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to request more information about an open contract which is being tendered by the Crown Commercial Service on behalf of NHS Digital:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/bb569dbc-2642-4911-a174-b81749d9b215?origin=SearchResults&p=4>

I would like to request more details about the nature of the contract, which states that "The scope of the Agreement will cover the following: -

- Digital development*
- DevOps support*
- Data collection, processing and dissemination*
- Digital resource augmentation"*

I would like to specifically request clarification on whether the collection and processing of data will involve machine learning or artificial intelligence processes, as well as on the nature of the 'augmentation' of digital resources planned."

We have considered your request and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and can confirm that we do not hold the information that you have requested.

This new Framework is being developed by Crown Commercial Services with NHS Digital support.

In response to your question, Crown Commercial Services are responsible for this procurement under Framework RM6221. Digital Capability for Health.

All formal questions related to this framework procurement should be directed to them at :
foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

However, as an informal response to your question, and subject to finalisation by Crown Commercial Services, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence processes are currently mentioned within the scope of services under the Framework (but as an example, not a specific standalone service).

We recommend you visit: <https://www.crowncommercial.gov.uk/agreements/RM6221> on a regular basis. This currently includes supplier engagement presentations and will shortly have the latest "boot camp" materials (from 10th July 2020) added.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS Digital website.

I trust you are satisfied with our response to your request for information. However, if you are not satisfied, you may request a review from a suitably qualified member of staff not involved in the initial query, via the enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk email address or by post at the above postal address.

If following an internal review, you remain unsatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request you are entitled to ask the Information Commissioner to assess whether we have complied with our obligations under FOIA by writing to them at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Email: casework@ico.org.uk

NHS Digital values customer feedback and would appreciate a moment of your time to respond to our Freedom of Information (FOI) Survey to let us know about your experience. Please access the survey through this link [here](#)

Yours sincerely,

Information Assurance Advisor