

[request-273075-6adb6c36@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

Date: 7 August 2015

Our Ref: 2251/15

Chief Digital & Information Officer Group

Room 2E/08  
100 Parliament Street  
London  
SW1A 2BQ

Dear Ms Jee,

**Application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

Thank you for your request, which we received on the 10<sup>th</sup> July, for the information below:

1. *How many Microsoft Office licences does HMRC have?*
2. *If HMRC does not have any Microsoft Office licences, how many licences does it have for Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Access and Outlook?*
3. *How many Open Office licences does HMRC have?*
4. *How many Libre Office licences does HMRC have?*
5. *Which version of Windows do HMRC computers run on?*
6. *How many instances of Windows XP remain within HMRC?*

Our answers follow below:

1. 65,682
2. N/A
3. None
4. 102

We can confirm that HMRC holds the information to questions 5 and 6, but it is being withheld under FOIA exemption s31 (1) (a) (prejudice to the prevention or detection of crime) and s31 (1) (d) (prejudice to the assessment or collection of tax). Section 31 is a qualified exemption which means if it applies I must consider whether the public interest favours maintaining the exemption.

I accept the public interest in our procedures being transparent and generally understood. This facilitates the proper public scrutiny of our processes and procedures which in turn helps reinforce high standards of performance and governance.

On the other hand, disclosure of information that might assist those intent on committing crime is not in the public interest. Anything that puts the running of HMRC at risk could undermine confidence in the tax system and that would not be in the public interest. Providing sensitive information about HMRC's IT estate could help criminals in more effectively targeting malicious activity against both our services and our customers. Any resulting damage to our services could prejudice the assessment or collection of tax.

It is in the public interest that HMRC is able to assess and collect tax as efficiently as possible, at the least cost to the public purse and the minimum of additional burden to taxpayers at large.

So on balance, I conclude that the public interest favours maintaining the exemption.

If you are not happy with this reply you may request a review by writing to HMRC FOI Team, Room 1C/23, 100 Parliament Street London SW1A 2BQ or email [xxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xxx.xx) 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 an internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. The ICO will not usually consider a case unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by HMRC. He can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or by their website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Sam Newhouse  
HM Revenue and Customs  
Chief Digital and Information Officer Group