



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

[foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

26 May 2021

Dear Ms Thirsk

**Our ref: FOI2021/09517**

Thank you for your email of 27 April in which you make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your full request is attached.

The Government undertook a wider refurbishment of rooms within 9 Downing Street (formerly the Privy Council Offices), a Grade 1 listed building; the building had not been renovated substantively for almost 50 years. This involved one-off capital works, including improvements to heating and ventilation, roof repairs and floor reinforcement. Listed building works involve greater expense, in order to maintain and protect the building's heritage. The refurbishment also involved setting up a media room for press events; such works included including audio-visual equipment, internet infrastructure, electrical works and lighting. The media room is now in regular use, and helps the Government communicate to the public and be accountable for its actions.

Information in relation to these works has been published in response to a Parliamentary Question. This is therefore exempt by virtue of Section 21 of the Act (*information accessible by other means*). It can be found at:

[Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Further details about works on the Downing Street estate, including the refurbishment of 9 Downing Street, will be covered in the Cabinet Office's forthcoming annual report and audited accounts. This information therefore engages Section 22 of the Act (*information intended for future publication*).

Section 22 is subject to a public interest test. I recognise that there is a general public interest in openness, and a specific public interest relating to the expenditure of public money. Set against this is the strong public interest in ensuring that all expenditure of public money is properly audited in accordance

with established procedures in order to ensure that accurate information is provided and that such information is published in accordance within the normal publication procedures.

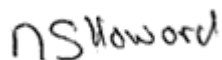
Taking into account all the circumstances of this case, I have determined that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information at this stage.

Mitie (formerly Interserve) provide services to the Cabinet Office as part of the wider Facilities Management contract This can be found at:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/notice/eadf425a-73fd-4106-87e4-cf586ad0d48d>.

These services include refurbishment works on the Cabinet Office estate. No tender was accordingly required. Sub-contractor agreements are a commercial matter for Mitie and are not held by the Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N Howard'.

**NICHOLAS HOWARD**

Ms Elizabeth Thirsk

Incoming request

Please itemise all figures for the expensive TV studio you spent our taxes on. We require names and companies who carried out all works and receipts for all products purchased. Were all products purchased and made in England? Were you supporting local tradesmen during this project or outsourcing to another country? Did you get at least 2 quotes for the work? If so please attach those quotes in your answer.



**10 DOWNING STREET**  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

If you are unhappy with the level of service you have received from this office in relation to any aspect of your request, you may ask for an internal review.

You should contact:

Rachel Anderson  
Head of Freedom of Information  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

Email: [foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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