

Chief Digital &amp; Information Officer Group

Date: 27/05/2015

Our Ref: 1805/15

Room 2E/08  
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London  
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Dear Mr Heath,

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

Thank you for your request, which we received on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, for the information below:

*“How many computers are still running Windows XP?*

*When do you anticipate you will transition all of these XP machines to a new operating system?*

*Which operating system are you switching these machines to?*

*What parts of the department are these machines mainly used in?*

*How are you securing the XP machines in the interim period before their operating system is replaced?*

*Have you taken out an Extended Support deal with Microsoft to update these XP machines?*

*What is the cost of this Extended Support deal?*

*When does this Extended Support deal expire?”*

All of this information is restricted by FOIA exemption s31 (1) (a) (prejudice to the prevention or detection of crime). 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. 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 [foi.review@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi.review@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk). 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

Benjamin Douglass  
HM Revenue and Customs  
Chief Digital and Information Officer Group