



Cabinet Office

G39, 1 Horse Guards Road  
London, SW1A 2HQ

foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Ella Grant

By email: request-890495-e287f07a@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2022/13316

21 September 2022

Dear Ella Grant

We refer to your request where you asked:

*"I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act to the Crown Commercial Service regarding the Network Services framework (iterations 1, 2 and 3). Please could I access all the MISO submissions made under this framework in a machine readable format (preferably .csv).*

*As an example, similar information to the data we require is already publicly available for G-Cloud here:*

*<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiNTEyMTZhZDAtZGNiNi00OWQxLWI5ODYtMjg1ZWNIWmNkODVhliwidCI6IjlmOGMwZDc5LTNlODctNGNkMy05Nzk5LWMzNDQzMTQ2ZWE1ZSIsImMiOjh9>*

*For the avoidance of doubt, we'd like you to provide the following data fields as a minimum:*

*Spend value*

*Month of spend*

*Buyer name*

*Supplier name*

*Companies House Number of supplier (if available)*

*If you have additional data fields that can be sent, please provide them.*

*We're only seeking to know how much the framework contract was used and by which buyers and which suppliers. Please note, that because we are simply seeking to determine how much spend went through a contract, rather than*

*the details of suppliers arrangements with buyers, we are confident that this is not an issue of commercial confidentiality.*

*Please let me know if you require any clarifications. I await your response within 20 working days.”*

We are writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office, including the Crown Commercial Service (CCS).

Please find attached document ‘FOI2022/13316 Network Services’ which contains spend information, list of customers and a list of the suppliers and their registration numbers. Please note that no information is yet held on Network Services 3. This is evidenced spend data as of 14 September 2022.

I have not provided spend information associated with suppliers or customers. I consider information concerning spend for each public body and supplier for this commercial arrangement to be exempt from disclosure in accordance with the exemption at Section 43(2) (prejudice to commercial interests) of the FOIA.

Section 43(2) is engaged because the release of this information would be prejudicial to the commercial interests of the Crown Commercial Service, its customers and suppliers engaged in these commercial arrangements. This is a qualified exemption, and I have therefore considered whether the balance of the public interest favours disclosing or withholding this information.

Factors in favour of disclosing the requested information include:

- The public interest in openness and transparency of public sector organisations commercial activities, which can encourage increased trust in the work of the public sector, and enables accountability in terms of the use of public funds;
- The fact that private sector bodies engaging in commercial activities with the public sector must expect some information about those activities to be disclosed;

Factors in favour of withholding the requested information include:

- Preserving relationships of trust and confidence and the free flow of information between the Crown Commercial Service and customers/suppliers is paramount. The disclosure of the requested information may jeopardise this relationship,

which is fundamentally important in maintaining the most effective delivery of public services.

- The release of information concerning expenditure with suppliers could have a direct impact on the ability of suppliers to compete on a level playing field in current and future commercial activities;

After weighing up the competing public interest considerations, I have determined that the balance of public interest is in favour of withholding this information requested under Section 43(2) of the FOIA.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Head of Freedom of Information  
Cabinet Office  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

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 your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B. C.', written in a cursive style.

FOI Team  
Cabinet Office