

The Royal Mint,
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Sent by email only to:

Jonty Wareing

Date: 3rd June 2021

Dear Mr Wareing,

Re: Your Freedom of Information request of 7th May 2021

We write in response to your Freedom of Information request of 7th May 2021 where you requested the following information:

"I would like to request a list of all major technologies used in the implementation of the "DigiGold" system, including programming languages, operating systems, databases used, SaaS providers used, and a list of all open-source libraries that are in use in the production systems.

I would additionally like to request any information available on the technical implementation of DigiGold - specifically, how the accounting and transaction data is stored, but any other information available on the system design would also be helpful."

Although we of course hold information in this regard we are of the very clear opinion this engages section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('**FOIA**').

This information is both a trade secret of The Royal Mint – it being noted that as per ICO guidance a trade secret can include technical information – thereby engaging section 43(1) FOIA and it's disclosure would also be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of The Royal Mint thereby engaging section 43(2) FOIA.

The prejudice arises, of course, or at least is likely to arise, in that were this information as requested to be released into the public domain, it could compromise our security and alternatively provide competitors with a blueprint as to how to set up their own competing platform.

Section 43 is, of course, a qualified exemption and public authorities are required to balance the public interest between disclosure and non-disclosure of the information in scope.

The Royal Mint operates in a highly competitive bullion marketplace and the disclosure of the requested technical information would be of obvious and material value to our competitors in establishing competing platforms. Further, the release of this information into the public domain could impact the integrity and security of our platform as it would provide detailed information in respect of our IT infrastructure around our 'DigiGold' product.

Whilst we of course recognise the public interest argument in respect of transparency we believe in this case it is heavily outweighed having regard to the clear potential harm to the commercial and security interests of The Royal Mint by its release.

By way of formality, if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Mr Huw Lewis

Chief Financial Officer

Royal Mint

Llantrisant

Pontyclun

CF72 8YT

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please be aware that the Commissioner will be unlikely to make a decision until you have been through our internal complaints procedure first. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

FOI Team

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