

Sent by email only to:

Jonty Wareing

17 November 2021

Dear Mr Wareing

Letter confirming the outcome of internal review

I refer to your email of 20 October 2021 requesting an internal review of The Royal Mint's response dated 30 September 2021 to your freedom of information request of 6 September 2021.

As I understand it your freedom of information request of 6 September 2021 was the third in a series of freedom of information requests by you related to our DigiGold system. Your earlier requests were dated 7 May 2021 and 4 August 2021 and responses were provided to you for each, which included providing you with information in respect of open-source language and tools we utilise.

Your latest request for information was for a *"list [of] the database server software used in the DigiGold product"*.

Having conducted the review, I am satisfied that the decision to withhold the requested information in respect of the database server software was correct – for the reasons as set out and referenced in your email of 20 October - and that the section 43 exemption has been applied correctly in making that decision.

As part of the handling of your 6 September request we took soundings from our Chief Information Security Officer. Given the information already released in respect of open-source language and tools utilised, if this further information were to enter into the public domain we would have significant concerns that it would save a determined hacker considerable time in enumerating the back end of our system and point him or her in the direction of any vulnerabilities that may or may not exist within the site.

It is my view that as well as engaging the section 43 exemption the section 31 exemption is also engaged here, as the release of this information could potentially prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. As set out above our concern is that the release of this information would be likely to compromise The Royal Mint's information security strategies by giving cyber criminals insight into vulnerabilities which may or may not exist.

I am also satisfied, noting that the section 43 and indeed the section 31 exemptions are qualified exemptions, that the public interest test has been properly carried out here.

With regard to the public interest assessment the substance of this case is in no way pressing or vital information in need of disclosure – particularly when balanced with the potential adverse commercial impact of such a disclosure. Equally, this is not a case, at least to our understanding, where the issue

concerns any wrongdoing or any alleged dubious practices of our business. As the ICO's guidance itself notes "*The public interest is not necessarily the same as what interests the public*". I am therefore of the view that in all the circumstance of the case the public interest in maintaining the section 43 exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

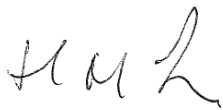
Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House, Water Lane,

Wilmslow, Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



Huw Lewis

Chief Financial Officer

The Royal Mint Limited