

Ms Georgina Evans

Via email:
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8 September 2017

Dear Ms Evans

Ref: FOI2017/13835

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Treasury's use of the 'public cloud'

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 10 August 2017.

You asked for the information at Annex A to this letter.

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold some information within the scope of your request. We do not hold information in scope of your Questions 1, 2, 3 or 7. Question 5 has not been answered as Question 4 has been answered in the affirmative.

1. *Have you [HM Treasury] got a Cloud adoption Strategy;*
2. *If yes does that strategy cover On-Premises, Private Cloud, Public Cloud or a Hybrid Mix?*

In order to be helpful, HM Treasury does follow the guidance. We are using the cloud for a number of services which are assessed on a case by case basis.

4. *Are you currently using any Public Cloud resources at the moment?*

Yes.

6. *Which Public Cloud resources are you using or planning in using?;*
8. *What workloads would you look to move into Public Cloud?;*
9. *Which business functions would you move to the Cloud?*

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act requires authorities to say whether information is held. However, for some of the exemptions, the FOI Act allows exceptions to the duty to confirm whether information is held. The exceptions occur when to say whether or not information is held would, or would be likely to incur prejudice in line with the terms of the exemption.

The Treasury can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of section 31(3) (law enforcement). However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist.

Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. In applying this exemption we are required to consider whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in neither confirming nor denying outweighs the public interest in disclosing whether or not the Treasury holds the information requested. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the Government holds the information requested. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not confirming or denying if information that may prejudice law enforcement is held or not.

On balance we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information is held.

10. Do you have the skill in-house to transition to the Cloud?

No. Treasury only retains a small in house IT team and contracts with external partners for technical services as required.

11. If you have adopted Public Cloud how have you classified the outcome?

C – Success.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 3/Red, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

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 the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

With Government Digital Service's (GDS) guidance on 'Public sector use of the Public Cloud' we are looking to create an industry report on how this new guidance may have changed the Cloud landscape for public sector organisations. In particular, we're keen to ascertain if the guidance has helped ease concerns around moving to Public Cloud and what Public Cloud is being used for within your IT environments.

Please could we have responses by either paper or electronic copies.

1. Have you got a Cloud adoption strategy?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
2. If yes does that strategy cover On-Premises, Private Cloud, Public Cloud or a Hybrid mix?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
3. What are the issues you are concerned about with regards to Public Cloud:
 - a. Skills and Staffing
 - b. Service Level Agreements
 - c. Fear of Lock-in
 - d. Security / Audit
 - e. Data Sovereignty
 - f. Service Availability
 - g. Integration
 - h. Migration
 - i. Governance (e.g. spend control)
4. Are you currently using any Public Cloud resources at the moment?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. If 'No' are you looking to add Public Cloud into your Cloud adoption strategy over the next 12 months?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
6. Which Public Cloud resources are you using or planning on using?
 - a. Amazon AWS
 - b. Microsoft Azure
 - c. VMware
 - d. Google Cloud
 - e. IBM
 - f. Oracle
 - g. Other
7. What are your drivers for moving to Public Cloud? (multiple answers)
 - a. Reducing costs
 - b. Scalability
 - c. Innovation & Experimenting
 - d. Efficiency
 - e. Improving business IT agility
 - f. Improve data resiliency
 - g. Improve productivity
8. What workloads would you look to move into Public Cloud? (multiple answers)
 - a. Backup

- b. DR
 - c. Test & Dev / DevOps
 - d. Data Analytics and BI (Business Intelligence)
 - e. Non Personally identifiable information (PII) applications
 - f. Personally identifiable information (PII) applications
9. Which business functions would you move to the Cloud? (multiple answers)
- a. CRM
 - b. HR / Payroll
 - c. ERP / SCM
 - d. Finance
 - e. Field Service Management
 - f. Website hosting
10. Do you have the skills in-house to transition to the Cloud?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
11. If you have adopted Public Cloud how have you classified the outcome?
- a. Failure
 - b. Partial or qualified success
 - c. Success

