



Freedom of Information Request FOI 20 48

Internal plans and strategy documents relating to ICT

Query and response:

I wish to submit a request for some of the organisation's information around the internal plans and strategy documents around ICT.

The ICT documents I require is the most recent update.

I wish to obtain the following documents:

1. ICT/IM&T/IS Strategy- The IT department strategy or plans, highlights their current and future objectives.

The Service has a 5-year ICT roadmap that sets out the direction for ICT and the associated investment requirements. The ICT roadmap covers five areas of work which are, smarter working, information management, ICT resilience, ICT technology management and ICT services management. The plan sets out the key projects and activities to realise the agreed business benefits and the financial investment and savings in the plan are embedded within our medium term financial plan.

The ICT roadmap document is withheld under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 24 exempts information for the purpose of safeguarding national security. It is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test.

We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in the Service protecting national security. Disclosure of information about our ICT systems and their current status could allow individuals to assess the strength of our defences and undermine the confidentiality and integrity of our systems. Consequently, this could then have an adverse impact on our ability to mobilise fire appliances and therefore the UK's security. We have therefore concluded that this exemption applies and that non-disclosure serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

For these reasons, we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

2. ICT Org Chart- A visual document that presents the structure of the IT department, please include name and job titles. If this cannot be sent, please work towards a structure with job titles.

Please see attached "FOI 20 48 ICT organisational structure". With the exception of the Head of ICT (whose name is already in the public domain), the names of individuals have been withheld under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act. As before, it is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test.



We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in the Service protecting national security. Disclosing the names of our ICT staff could potentially allow individuals to impersonate them, thus making us more vulnerable to social engineering. Consequently, this could then have an adverse impact on our ability to mobilise fire appliances and therefore the UK's security. We have therefore concluded that this exemption applies and that non-disclosure serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

For these reasons, we consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

3. ICT Annual or Business Plan- Like the ICT strategy but is more annually focused.

Please see our response to question 1.

4. ICT Capital Programme/budget- A document that shows financials budget on current and future projects.

Our ICT capital budget for current and future ICT projects is £282,300.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 24, June 2020