

Reference: 498903

Jerin John  
Information Rights Adviser  
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2 January 2018

### **Freedom of Information: Right to know request**

Thank you for your request for information where you asked a number of questions about Ofcom's spending on printing.

This was received by Ofcom on 5 December 2017 and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Please see below our responses to your questions:

*1. What is your total expenditure per annum on print and related activity?*

The information you requested is being withheld as it falls under the exemption in s.43 of the Act. This deals with the exemption of information that would prejudice the commercial interests of a person or company. In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information. The attached annex to this letter sets out the exemption in full, as well as the factors Ofcom considered when deciding where the public interest lay.

*2. Details of the supplier/s used and spend with each.*

We currently use XEROX. We are unable to provide the spend as this is exempt from disclosure under s.43 of the Act – see under question 1.

*3. Details of any current in house print function and value of print produced 'in house' vs. outsourced.*

We do not do any "in house" printing. All of our printing cost is via an outsourced supplier.

*4. How much of your total print outsourced spend is procured through Crown Commercial Framework Agreements such as RM 3785 Managed Print and Digital Solutions, RM921 Print*

*Vendor Partner, RM1687 Wider Public Sector Framework, RM 1063 Postal Goods and Services Framework Agreement, if so please provide values.*

All of our spend is via RM1599 which is a Crown Commercial Services Framework Agreement.

*5. How likely are you to utilise the new RM 3785 Managed Print and Digital Solutions - LOT 2 – Tailored Managed Print Solutions for your future requirements, if not are there any reasons why?*

We are very likely to use a framework agreement again, however, new technology and agile ways of working mean that our printing requirements are ever decreasing.

*6. Details of when the contract/s were last tendered and when they are due for renewal.*

Our print contract comes to an end towards the end of 2018.

*7. Who within the organisation has overall responsibility for Print and Digital Solutions?*

Overall responsibility for Print and Digital Solutions lies with our Director of ICT.

If you have any queries, then please contact [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk). Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

**Jerin John**

If you are unhappy with the response or level of service you have received in relation to your request from Ofcom, you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be treated as a formal complaint and will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will acknowledge the complaint and inform you of the date by which you might expect to be told the outcome.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

#### **Timing**

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for undertaking internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact:

Steve Gettings  
The Secretary to the Corporation  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
London SE1 9HA

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

**Annex**

<b>Section 43 – where information, if disclosed, would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of a company</b>	
<b>Factors for disclosure</b>	<b>Factors for withholding</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open policy making and public confidence in regulated activities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specific companies are identifiable and as such their ability to conduct their business activities would be diminished if this data were publicly available at this time. Therefore, commercial interest would be prejudiced.</li></ul>
<b>Reasons why public interest favours withholding information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ofcom enjoys a positive relationship with its stakeholders and external expertise in order to carry out its work, and is entrusted with commercially sensitive data provided by those companies. The release of this information into the public domain would impair both this relationship and could make it more difficult to procure services in future.</li></ul>	