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Date 7 May 2020

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Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which was received by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) on 28 February 2020. Your email outlined the following request:

1. Are the Data Centre's operated by or for the organisation fit for purpose? For example, is there a Business Continuity Plan, is there Disaster Recovery in place or is it a single site?
2. Is there any capital investment in data centres planned in the next 36 months? For example, Mechanical & Electrical or refresh of equipment within the DC such as network, storage area network?
3. Is data privacy and or information security compliance a priority for the organisation's board?
4. On your Organisation's risk register, are there any Information Technology related risks?
 - i) If time/ cost allows, please list the top three related risks.
5. Are the cyber security vulnerabilities within the organisation's existing Information Technology estate increasing?
 - i) Has the organisation had a security breach in the past 12 months?
6. Did the organisation meet its Information Technology savings target in the last Financial Year?
7. What percentage of Information Technology budget is currently allocated to "on-premises" capability vs "cloud" capability?
8. Does the organisation have the skills and resource levels necessary for moving to the cloud?
9. What percentage of the Information Technology department headcount are software developers?

10. In relation to contracts with Amazon Web Services, Microsoft for Azure and/or Google for Google Cloud, was the monthly expenditure higher than budgeted?

- i) If yes, has the organisation been able to subsequently reduce the cost whilst maintaining service levels for users?

I would prefer to receive this information electronically, preferably as a data set, e.g. in Excel, NOT as a PDF. If the decision is made to withhold some of this data using exemptions in the Data Protection Act, please inform me of that fact and cite the exemptions used.

If some parts of this request are easier to answer than others, I would ask that you release the available data as soon as possible. If you need any clarification then please do not hesitate to contact me. Under Section 16 it is your duty to provide advice and assistance and so I would expect you to contact me if you find this request unmanageable in any way. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request, and I look forward to hearing from you within the 20-working day statutory time period.

Response

1. Are the Data Centre's operated by or for the organisation fit for purpose? For example, is there a Business Continuity Plan, is there Disaster Recovery in place or is it a single site?

Yes our data centres are fit for purpose. The HTA's business continuity arrangements are incorporated into the Critical Incident Response Plan and we have disaster recovery site in place.

2. Is there any capital investment in data centres planned in the next 36 months? For example, Mechanical & Electrical or refresh of equipment within the DC such as network, storage area network?

As part of a planned office move to a new location we will be moving to a new fit for purpose on-premise data centre which will include new networking equipment. We are not replacing our existing storage area network.

3. Is data privacy and or information security compliance a priority for the organisation's board?

Yes, our strategic risk register includes the "Failure to utilise ... data and business technology effectively" and any potential risks relating the organisation's information security compliance would be included as a risk, and subject to reporting to our Authority members on a quarterly basis. Our updated risk registers are included in each Authority meeting pack published on our website at <https://www.hta.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/authority-meetings-topic-listings>

4. On your Organisation's risk register, are there any Information Technology related risks?

As above, any current or historical organisational risks relating to information security will be included within our strategic risk registers and are therefore available on our website.

i) If time/ cost allows, please list the top three related risks.

As above, any current or historical organisational risks relating to information security will be included within our strategic risk registers and are therefore available on our website.

5. Are the cyber security vulnerabilities within the organisation's existing Information Technology estate increasing?

We have good visibility of the cyber security vulnerabilities in our Information Technology estate through a combination of proactively scanning our environment for vulnerabilities on a monthly basis, weekly and out-of-band NHS CareCERT bulletins and notifications from NCSC Active Cyber Defence. The number of known exploitable vulnerabilities has been trending downwards consistently over the past 24 months.

i) Has the organisation had a security breach in the past 12 months?

No.

6. Did the organisation meet its Information Technology savings target in the last Financial Year?

We do not currently account for an 'IT savings target'.

7. What percentage of Information Technology budget is currently allocated to "on-premises" capability vs "cloud" capability?

Approximately 20% of the Information Technology budget is allocated to cloud capability.

8. Does the organisation have the skills and resource levels necessary for moving to the cloud?

Yes.

9. What percentage of the Information Technology department headcount are software developers?

None.

10. In relation to contracts with Amazon Web Services, Microsoft for Azure and/or Google for Google Cloud, was the monthly expenditure higher than budgeted?

We do not have contracts with Amazon, Microsoft or Google for the services in question, and the current implementation of Microsoft Office 365 as described above will not extend to deploying server workloads to Azure.

i) If yes, has the organisation been able to subsequently reduce the cost whilst maintaining service levels for users?

N/a

Further information

If you are unhappy with the way the HTA has handled your request for information in this case, you may in the first instance ask us for an internal review by writing to us at the above postal or email address.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have the right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision, at the address below. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

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