

1. Please estimate your organisation's current (2005/6) IT budget.
£19.8 million

2. Please estimate your organisation's annual expenditure for:

- a) Software
- b) Hardware
- c) Communications
- d) Services (inc. training, outsourcing, consultancy)
- e) Staff
- f) Other

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Total expenditure in the financial year to 31 March 2005 was £136,298,000

This includes;

**Staff costs £78,018,000, of which £3,095,000 was spent on agency staff and consultants
Computing, including communications £17,631,000**

3. Please estimate your organisation's annual expenditure on:

- a) Anti-virus software
- b) Firewall software
- c) Anti-spam software
- d) Hardware firewalls
- e) Authentication system
- f) Mobile/remote access security
- g) Other IT security (please specify)
- h) Total IT security expenditure

VOSA has contracted out the provision of IT and communications services, including IT security, to private sector suppliers. The information requested is exempt from release under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which states;

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)

A public interest test has been applied.

4. Please estimate the following:

	Servers	Desktops	Laptops	Tablets	PDA's or other handheld computer devices
The number of computer devices used by your organization	150	200	1,015		
The number of these devices that are connected to the Internet					
The number of these computer devices that use anti-virus software	150	200	1,015		

5. How many hardware firewalls does your organisation have?

Five

6. Which one of the following best applies to the organisation regarding business continuity planning and disaster recovery planning? The organisation:

- a) Has a formal risk management approach;**
- b) Is in the process of developing a formal risk management approach;
- c) Is planning a formal risk management approach; or
- d) Has no plans for a formal risk management approach.

7. Which of the following products do you use (please also provide the name of the product you use, when it is not sensitive information)?

- a) Authentication system
- b) Identification/ verification software
- c) Email filtering/Anti-spam
- d) Web filtering
- e) Anti-virus
- f) Server monitoring
- g) Email monitoring
- h) Internet monitoring
- i) Server firewall
- j) Desktop/laptop firewall
- k) Anti-spyware
- l) mobile/remote access security product
- m) VPN
- n) VoIP

VOSA takes the view that this information would provide too much detail to a potential attacker should it become widely known, and may leave our IT systems vulnerable. Section 36 (2) (c) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states that information is exempt from release if it

would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs

A public interest test has been applied.

8. Have you implemented the BS7799/ISO 17799 standard? If not, do you intend to and when?

We have regard to the above standards when developing new systems and in normal operations, but VOSA has not been formally accredited. In line with Department for Transport practice, VOSA policy is not to seek accreditation, due to the financial costs involved.

9. Do you have a corporate governance (internal policy, guidelines) for your IT security?

There is guidance embedded in the VOSA ICT policy.

Public Interest Test – Question 3

<p>Section 43 (2) <i>Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)</i></p>	
<p><i>Factors for disclosure</i></p>	<p><i>Factors for withholding</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability of public expenditure 	<p>Revealing details of current contracts would be likely to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weaken VOSA’s position in current and future contract negotiations • prejudice the commercial interests of the private sector suppliers involved by giving their competitors an advantage in tendering
<p><i>Reasons why public interest favours withholding information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is in the public interest that VOSA achieves value for money when procuring goods and services. This would be made difficult if details of current IT contracts were to become public knowledge. • Release would also be likely to prejudice the interests of the private sector companies involved, and may discourage participation in future tender exercises for public authority contracts. 	

Public Interest Test – Question 7

<p>Section 36 (2) <i>Information to which this section applies is exempt information if, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, disclosure of the information under this Act -</i> <i>(c) would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs</i></p>	
<p><i>Factors for disclosure</i></p>	<p><i>Factors for withholding</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public accountability / transparency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would provide too much detail to a potential attacker and may leave VOSA's IT systems and data vulnerable • Would increase the risks to other government systems with which VOSA has links
<p><i>Reasons why public interest favours withholding information</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public interest is in maintaining the integrity of public authorities' computer systems and preventing unauthorised access to the data held • VOSA has obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 to ensure that personal information held does not become available to third parties 	