

From: **Information Access**

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Date: 26 May 2006

Our Ref: * * * *

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BY EMAIL

Dear * * * *

I am writing in reply to your request for information on VOSAs ICT expenditure * * * .

1. Total annual spend on ICT.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), an executive agency of the Department for Transport, was formed on 1 April 2003.

Expenditure on computing is published in VOSA's *Annual Report & Accounts*, available on our website at

<http://www.vosa.gov.uk/vosa/aboutvosa/corporatereports.htm>

(please see the *Notes to the accounts*, note 3: Other Operating Charges)

2003/04	£12,610,000
2004/05	£17,631,000
2005/06	£19,800,000 (<i>estimated</i> *)
2006/07	£16,500,000 (<i>estimated</i>)

* Please note that the accounts for 2005/06 are still in preparation. Final figures will be published in the *Annual Report & Accounts*.

2. Annual spend on hardware (desktop computers, lap top computers, fax machines, printers, servers, LAN switches, keyboards, hard drives, cables, etc).

3. Annual spend on software (applications software, operating systems software, database software, security and anti-virus software, etc).

4. Annual spend on telephony (call charges, exchange lines, telephone switches and support, telephone handsets, voice and data networks, etc.)

5. Annual spend on additional external services such as support services (IT consultancy, maintenance and support services etc).

VOSA has contracted out the supply of ICT services. The contract is for the provision of a managed service. We do not hold separate figures for hardware, software, telephony and support services.

6. Please provide the names of your organisation's main suppliers in each of the categories – hardware, software, telephony and additional external support services.

All these services are provided by Atos Origin.

In addition, VOSA has a contract with Siemens Business Services for the computerisation of the MoT scheme.

7. Please indicate the values of contracts by supplier and category.

This is considered likely to prejudice the interests of VOSA and its private sector suppliers, and is therefore exempt under Section 43 of the Act. A public interest has been applied and is included as Appendix A to this letter.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference * * * .

Complaints

Details of our complaints procedures are included as Appendix B.

Yours sincerely

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APPENDIX A
Public Interest Test – question 7

<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. 	

APPENDIX B

Complaints

Step 1

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. To request an internal review, please write to:

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giving the reasons for your dissatisfaction.

Step 2

If you do not agree with the outcome of the internal review, you may lodge an appeal with the Information Commissioner (www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk). The Information Commissioner is an independent official appointed by the Crown to oversee the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The Information Commissioner can consider complaints about any aspect of the way in which requests for information have been handled. Please note: the Information Commissioner would be unlikely to consider your complaint if you have not first requested an internal review.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

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