



I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your council's IT infrastructure, with a specific focus on data storage and cloud adoption. Please provide responses to the following questions:

1. Data Centres and On-Premise Facilities

None

- a. How many data centres, server rooms, or similar on-premise facilities are currently operated or managed by the council? Please provide a breakdown of each type.

2. Data Storage

- a. What is the breakdown of the council's data stored across the following environments? Please provide either the percentage or numerical breakdown for each type:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • On-premise | 0% |
| • Public cloud | 70% |
| • Private cloud | 30% |
| • Hybrid (a mix of on-premise and cloud) | 0% |

3. Cloud Migration

Majority of services have been migrated to the cloud, Microsoft Azure

- a. Has the council migrated any data or services to the cloud in the past three years?
- b. If applicable, can you provide a list of systems migrated (e.g., HR, CRM, Finance, etc.)?
- c. If applicable, please could you provide the cloud service provider(s) used for each migration?

4. Cloud Adoption Policy

Yes

- a. Does the council have a formal cloud adoption policy?

5. Cloud Data Location Monitoring

Yes

- a. Does the council monitor the physical location of its cloud-hosted data (answer yes or no)?
- b. If applicable, please can you provide how this is tracked?

6. Financial Information on IT Infrastructure

- a. For the past five years, can you provide the annual spend on your IT Infrastructure?
- b. If applicable, please provide the breakdown of spend for each year of the last 3 years and for each of the following categories:
 - Hardware (Servers, Computers, Network Devices, Storage Systems)
 - Software
 - Networks
 - Data Centres
 - Cloud Infrastructure (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS)
 - Security Systems
 - IT Service Management
 - External consultancy for cloud migration or IT modernisation

We confirm that the Council holds this information, but is withholding it, except where that information is on the Contracts Register, from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). Section 43(2) of the Act exempts information whose disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any legal person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

There are ongoing commercial discussions as part of the council's managed IT service contract and the detail and level of expenditure requested cannot be disclosed at this stage as this would be likely to harm the Council's commercial interests. This is because bidders might artificially inflate their bids knowing the current value of elements of the contract.

We therefore believe that the exemption within Section 43 (2) of the FOI Act is engaged.

This exemption is subject to a public interest test. Whilst the council recognises the inherent public interest in transparency and accountability in its expenditure, and indeed, the overall contract value appears on the Council's contracts register, it believes the public interest in getting best value from the procurement process and keeping the burden on local taxpayers to a minimum outweighs the principles of transparency at this stage of the process.