



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-215, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

1. Please provide your organisation's total spend on cloud infrastructure for the last three financial years. (Please use the following categories)

<£1M

£1M - £2M

£2M-£5M

£5M-£10M

>£10M

2022-2023

2023-2024

2024-2025

2. Please list all of the hyperscaler cloud providers your organization currently uses:

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Google Cloud Platform (GCP)

Alibaba Cloud

Microsoft Azure

Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI)

Other

3. Is your organisation considering using more than one cloud provider?

Yes – already doing this

Yes – under consideration

No

No, considering switching fully

Other

4. Do you have any commercial agreements with any cloud providers? If yes, please provide contract details (e.g. start/end date, amount, where you found the provider)

5. Please list the internal departments with the highest utilisation of cloud services.

Corporate Services

Finance and Resources

Adult Social Care and Health

Children's Services and Education

Housing and Homelessness

Other

6. What percentage of your organisation's data is currently hosted on cloud platforms versus on premises?

<10% hosted on cloud platforms

10-25% hosted on cloud platforms

25-50% hosted on cloud platforms

50-75% hosted on cloud platforms

75-100% hosted on cloud platforms

7. Have you implemented any policies regarding data sovereignty and/or cloud security? (If yes, please send a copy of any policies)

Yes

No

Other

8. Please disclose any information your organisation holds relating to cyber incidents affecting your cloud systems.

9. Ofcom/CMA Investigation - Ofcom has raised concerns that some of the largest cloud providers (like Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure) make it difficult or expensive for organisations to switch providers. This led to a formal investigation by the CMA, which is expected to publish its final findings by 4 August 2025.

Is your organisation aware of the CMA investigation into major cloud providers and the concerns around switching costs, contracts, and competition?

Yes – fully aware

Somewhat aware

Not aware

Other

10. Has your organisation taken any steps in response to this (for example, discussing risks of lock-in, reviewing contracts, or exploring alternative providers)?

Yes – formal review or actions taken

Yes – informal discussions only

No steps taken

Other

11. What concerns, if any, do you have with your current hyperscaler cloud provider?

Cost

Security

Reliability (e.g., SLAs/customer care)

Vendor Lock-in

Geopolitics

Environmental concerns (e.g., water usage, power consumption, emissions)

No concerns

Other

Response:

1. <£1M

2. Information Refused Under Section 31(1)(a) Law Enforcement

3. Yes

4. Yes, end date March 2027. We do not hold the cost as a separate figure, as this is built into the contract with other services. Procured through RFQ.

5. We do not hold this information

6. 10-25%

7. No

8. Information Refused Under Section 31(1)(a) Law Enforcement

9. Not aware

10. n/a

11. No concerns

In respect of those requests that are answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- a) consider the information exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- b) claim exempt under sections of the Act

Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- c) state why the exemption applies

31. Law enforcement (1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice (a) the prevention or detection of crime

We can neither confirm nor deny whether we hold this information. Section 31(1)(a) exempts information if its disclosure under this Act would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. By confirming or denying whether we hold information of this type, this could in itself disclose information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. As Section 31(1)(a) is a qualified exception, we, the authority, must consider the balance of public interest in the circumstances of the request.

Arguments in favour of disclosing the information:

- There is public interest in the Council's accountability and transparency.

Arguments in favour of withholding the information:

- While there may be public interest in knowing this information, the ICT Department considers that providing the requested information would, or would be likely to, substantially prejudice and present a significant risk to the security arrangements in place to protect the network as well as information and data held by our Council.
- Disclosure of information relating to ICT security puts the Council at risk of a malicious hacking attack. This would compromise the Council's ability to provide its services and carry out 'business-as-usual' should our systems be compromised. Were our systems to be compromised, the cost of a system recovery would be detrimental to the Council's commercial interests.
- There is an overwhelming public interest in keeping the Council's computer systems secure which would be served by non-disclosure.

Whilst the Council strongly believes in the principle of open and accountable local government, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

This exemption covers all aspects of the prevention and detection of crime, including public authorities without any specific law enforcement responsibilities. The exemption can be used not only to withhold information provided to a law enforcement agency, but also to withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime. We use the ICO decision notice to base our decision: [Freedom of Information Act 2000 \(Section 50\) \(ico.org.uk\)](#)

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-215.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.