



**Request Reference: 3576**

FOI Request dated 05/02/2026 –

- 1. The total capital and revenue expenditure associated with the procurement and implementation of the organisation's current wired (LAN) and wireless (WLAN) network infrastructure at the time of purchase, including hardware, software, licences and installation services, for the last 6 years.*
- 2. The year or years in which the current core, distribution, access switching and wireless network infrastructure were procured or last significantly refreshed.*
- 3. The supplier or suppliers awarded the contract(s) for the current network infrastructure and the procurement route used (for example, CCS, YPO, NWUPC framework or open tender).*
- 4. The number of physical sites and buildings currently connected to the organisation's network and the nature of that connectivity/*
- 5. The approximate number of network users, wired network ports and wireless access points currently supported across the estate.*
- 6. The current annual cost of network-related support, maintenance and software or security subscriptions.*
- 7. The budget allocated specifically for network infrastructure (LAN, WLAN and network security) for the current financial year and the next two financial years, if available.*
- 8. Whether there is a planned date or programme for the next major refresh or replacement of the network infrastructure, and if so, the expected timeframe.*
- 9. Whether an estimated capital budget has been approved or forecast for the next network refresh project, and if so, the estimated budget range.*
- 10. The primary drivers for the next planned network refresh (for example capacity constraints, cyber security requirements, end-of-support, new buildings or digital strategy objectives).*

**Response**

1. £4,249,656.27
2. 2021
3. Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

We have applied the following exemption to your request – Section 31 (1)(a) – Law Enforcement.

As with other large organisations, universities depend on the security and resilience of their network infrastructure. Maintaining the integrity of these systems is a significant challenge, particularly in an environment where the higher education sector faces increasing levels of general cyber-security threats as

well as more targeted attempts to compromise systems or access data belonging to staff and students. Disclosure under the FOIA is considered a release to the world at large. In this context, identifying the suppliers responsible for our network infrastructure, together with the procurement route used, could enable a motivated individual or group to exploit potential weaknesses associated with specific technologies, support arrangements, or supply chains. This would expose the University's systems to a real and significant risk of unlawful attack and therefore prejudice the prevention and detection of crime.

Having established that disclosure would create a genuine risk of harm, we must also assess whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

#### Factors in favour of disclosure

- Enhances transparency and supports understanding of how the University manages its IT network infrastructure
- Increases public confidence in our procurement processes and in our use of funds

#### Factors against disclosure

- Protects the University's ability to safeguard critical IT infrastructure and associated assets
- Prevents disclosure of information that could be exploited to facilitate cyber-attacks, thereby protecting the operational effectiveness of the University and the security of the data it holds
- Supports the wider public interest in preventing crime and reducing risks to publicly funded assets and services

After careful consideration, we conclude that the factors weighing against disclosure outweigh those in favour. We are therefore applying Section 31(1)(a) – **Law Enforcement** to withhold the requested information.

4. 5 sites, 67 buildings connected by fibre
5. 15000 users, 28800 network ports and 1200 wireless access points
6. £52000
7. Not available
8. No plans
9. No approved budget
10. No plans

*Please be aware that Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made with the intention of furthering commercial interests, such as selling goods or services or gaining a competitive advantage over potential suppliers, are outside the intended scope of FOI. Using FOI for gaining a commercial advantage over others is not in line with the purpose of the Act and provides minimal or no benefit to the public. ICO guidance sets out that: "The public interest here means the public good, not what is of interest to the public, and not the private interests of the requester."*

*To assist you on this occasion and for future reference, you may find the following information helpful:*

- For all procurement enquiries, if you are interested in becoming a supplier or you are a current supplier, please see our webpage: [Procurement | University of Hull](#)
- We suggest you view the Contracts Finder (government website): <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder> for information about contracts awarded/due for tender.