

Ref: FOI2026-007

[REDACTED]

17 April 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your request for the following information:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide the following information regarding the authority's current software systems used for **E-Tendering** and **Contract Lifecycle Management (CLM)**:*

1. **System(s):** *What software system(s) does the authority currently use for E-Tendering and Contract Lifecycle Management? (If different systems are used, please specify both).*
2. **Contract Value:** *What is the annual contract value for these system(s)? (If separate systems are used for E-Tendering and CLM, please provide the value for each separately).*
3. **Expiry & Extensions:** *What is the current contract expiration date for these system(s), and are there any available extension options remaining in the contract? (If separate systems, please provide dates for both).*
4. **System Owner:** *What is the specific **Job Title** and **Name** (if disclosure is permitted under Section 40 of the FOIA) of the officer responsible for managing this system or the upcoming procurement of its replacement?*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

We can confirm that AWE holds all of the information in scope of your request.

We are able to release the information requested in questions 1 and 3 of your request.

The systems used for E-Tendering & CLM is Jaggaer and for NEC contract management is TP Contracts. The Jaggaer contract is due to expire on 9 December 2029 and TP contracts on 31 March 2027.

However, we are withholding the information requested in question 2 of your request under sections, 24(1), 26(1) and 43(2) of the Act.

In relation to question 4, AWE does not hold the requested information. Responsibility for managing the system or any future procurement will be assigned to an appropriate commercial officer at the time the procurement activity is initiated.

Section 24(1) of the Act exempts information from disclosure for the purpose of safeguarding national security. Disclosure of the requested information would, or would be likely to, undermine national security by revealing information which could be exploited to the detriment of the United Kingdom's security interests.

Section 26(1) of the Act exempts information from disclosure where such disclosure of the requested information would, or would be likely to, reveal details of defence-related capabilities, activities, or vulnerabilities which could be exploited by hostile actors or otherwise undermine the United Kingdom's defence interests. Such disclosure would therefore be prejudicial to the effective defence of the United Kingdom.

Section 43(2) of the Act exempts information where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding the information). Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice commercial interests by harming negotiating positions, revealing commercially sensitive information, or undermining fair competition.

For each of the exemptions applied, we will now set out arguments for and against disclosure in terms of the public interest with the reasons for our conclusion.

Section 24(1) - National Security:

AWE recognises the strong presumption in favour of disclosure within the Act and acknowledges the clear public interest in transparency, accountability, and openness in the use of public funds. Contract information can help demonstrate value for money, support scrutiny of procurement processes, and provide assurance that services are being delivered effectively.

However, these considerations must be balanced against the overriding public interest in safeguarding national security. Information may be created and incrementally accumulate in the public domain over time. When such material is considered collectively, through a cumulative or "mosaic" effect, it may enable connections or inferences that would not be apparent from individual disclosures in isolation. Disclosure of the withheld information would contribute to this body of publicly available material and could, when combined with existing information, increase the vulnerability of the United Kingdom or its citizens to national security threats by revealing sensitive insights into protected systems, infrastructure, or operational arrangements.

There is a significant public interest in ensuring that highly sensitive information is handled securely and that the confidentiality of procurement of these systems are preserved.

On balance, while transparency carries weight, it is outweighed by the compelling and enduring public interest in preventing increased risks to national security. The potential harm arising from disclosure is serious and lasting, and the public interest therefore favours maintaining the exemption.

Section 26(1) – Defence

AWE recognises the strong presumption in favour of disclosure within the Act and the clear public interest in openness and transparency in public sector contracting. Disclosure of the information may support accountability for public expenditure, demonstrate value for money, and promote confidence in procurement processes.

Nevertheless, these interests must be carefully weighed against the substantial public interest in protecting the defence of the United Kingdom. The withheld information relates to defence-connected systems and supply chains, its release would highly likely prejudice current or future defence capabilities. Even partial or seemingly innocuous information may assist adversaries in identifying vulnerabilities, understanding

operational structures, or targeting periods of potential disruption—for example, through knowledge of contract values and renewal cycles. Disclosure would contribute to the incremental accumulation of information in the public domain which, through a cumulative or “mosaic” effect, could be analysed alongside other material to deduce AWE’s activities. This would be likely to prejudice national security and the defence of the United Kingdom by enabling sensitive inferences to be drawn about defence-related operations, systems, or infrastructure.

There is a strong public interest in maintaining the secure handling of sensitive defence information to preserve the integrity of defence procurement, ensure the resilience of critical supply chains, and supporting trusted cooperation with our defence partners.

On balance, the potential harm from disclosure is significant and enduring. While transparency is important, it is outweighed by the very strong public interest in safeguarding defence-related procurement, and the exemption is therefore maintained.

Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests

The information requested relates to the annual contract value of AWE’s current e-tendering and Contract Lifecycle Management systems. Disclosure of this information would reveal commercially sensitive pricing and contractual details, which could be used by suppliers or competitors to gain an unfair advantage in future procurement exercises. This could weaken AWE’s negotiating position, undermine competition, and may affect value for money in any subsequent tendering process.

There is a general public interest in transparency and accountability in the use of public funds. Disclosure of contract values can help demonstrate how public authorities allocate resources and ensure that procurement decisions are subject to public scrutiny. Releasing such information can also increase confidence in the authority’s governance and financial management.

However, there is a strong public interest in protecting AWE’s commercial position and ensuring that it is able to secure best value for money when procuring goods and services. Disclosure of contract values for specialist commercial systems would provide insight into AWE’s pricing structures and budgetary tolerances, which could be exploited by suppliers during future procurement or contract renewal exercises. This would be likely to reduce competition, increase costs to the public purse, and prejudice the commercial interests of both AWE and its suppliers. Additionally, AWE operates in a highly specialised and competitive procurement environment, and maintaining confidentiality around commercially sensitive contractual information is necessary to preserve effective and fair competition and safeguard the integrity of future procurement processes.

Having considered the arguments for and against disclosure, AWE has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Accordingly, the information requested in question 2 is withheld under sections, 24(1), 26(1) and 43(2) of the Act.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled you have a right to request an internal review within 40 days of receiving this letter, by writing to information.requests@awe.co.uk or our postal address: Information Requests Team, AWE Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR. If you are still unhappy after an

internal review has been completed, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have the right to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. Please note the Commissioner will generally not consider a complaint until you have exhausted AWE's internal complaints process.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team