7 March 2016

Reference number: FoI - 281

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I am writing in response to the request you made to BBSRC under the Freedom of Information Act, which was received on Tuesday 16 February 2016.

Statement of information requested

I would like to understand the procurement of Apple Products at RCUK via UKSBS and otherwise:

1. What frameworks are utilised to purchase Apple Products, compliantly?
2. Through what channels are Apple Products purchased? i.e. Apple HE store, Apple Reseller etc.
3. Do users go directly to Apple HE or is all procurement done through UKSBS?
4. Is RCUK and effectively UKSBS aware of the upcoming Apple HE framework through the channel?

Background

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is one of seven Research Councils that work together as Research Councils UK (RCUK). It is funded from the Government’s Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. BBSRC’s budget for 2014/15 was £509M and it supports around 1,600 scientists and 2,000 research students in universities and institutes in the UK. Information about BBSRC’s mission can be found on our website at http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/mission.aspx.

UK Shared Business Services (UK SBS) provides a range of services, including IT, to BBSRC and other public sector organisations. UK SBS enters contracts on its client’s behalf and provides services to them.

Duty to confirm or deny

BBSRC does hold information relating to this request.

Requested Information

I shall answer each of your questions in turn;

1. What frameworks are utilised to purchase Apple Products, compliantly?
A specific framework to purchase Apple products is available to UK SBS via the London Universities Purchasing Consortium (LUPC) framework for Apple Computer Equipment – ITS001-HW. However, UK SBS have not used this framework at any time.

UK SBS do not procure Apple products specifically; procurement decisions are made on output based specifications. Resellers on Crown Commercial Services (CCS) frameworks may offer Apple or other branded products based on the given specification. All procurements managed by UK SBS are scored on quality and price and not on specific brands as this would restrict the available market.
UK SBS uses the CCS framework for Technology Products (RM1054).

2. **Through what channels are Apple Products purchased?** i.e. Apple HE store, Apple Reseller etc. As stated above Apple products are not specified during a tendering process but may be offered by resellers if they suit the output based specification.

3. **Do users go directly to Apple HE or is all procurement done through UKSBS?**
   Apple Phones - through Any vendor but in past through the mobile telephony contract Other Apple Products - Through HE store or other Government contracts. Not all staff have access as only few approved purchasers.

4. **Is RCUK and effectively UKSBS aware of the upcoming Apple HE framework through the channel?**
   UK SBS and BBSRC holds no information regarding a framework with Apple Higher Education, current or future.

If you have any further questions, please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

BBSRC Freedom of Information Officer

**Publication:** please note that this response to your request may be published on a public website.

**Complaints Process**

If you are dissatisfied with how we have handled your request, you may register a formal complaint with the BBSRC Complaints Officer at complaints.officer@bbsrc.ac.uk, who will conduct an internal review.

If you are not happy with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner, Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, Tel: 01625 545 745, [https://ico.org.uk/](https://ico.org.uk/).