31 May 2017

Reference number: Fol 340

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 Friday 5 May 2017.

Statement of information requested

1. **Does your organisation use any bespoke software systems?**
   
   If yes, please kindly complete the following questions. If no, please proceed to question 2.
   
   - What is the core purpose of these system/s?
   - Do these system/s integrate with your organisations financial management systems?
   - Do these system/s enable e-payments, online payments or BACS transactions?
   - Which company/companies are you contracted to for each bespoke software system?
   - What is the total value of each of these contracts over their respective terms?
   - When does the current contract term for these system/s expire?
   - Who are the technical and procurement leads for these system/s and their contact details?

2. **Is your organisation in the process of exploring the scope or planning the procurement of a bespoke software system or an off-the-shelf commercially branded software system which you envisage will require bespoke development to fit your organisation's needs?**
   
   If yes, please kindly complete the following questions:
   
   - Will this system/s integrate with your organisations financial management system/s?
   - Will this system/s enable e-payments, online payments or BACS transactions?
   - Will this system/s automate processes or data currently managed by spreadsheets?
   - Will this system/s automate paper based processes?
   - Will this system/s capture large volumes of data from outside your organisation?
   - When is the prospective go-live date for such system/s?
   - What is the estimated budget for such system/s over the intended contractual period (rough order of magnitude)?
   - Who will be the technical and procurement lead for these project/s?

**Background**

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is one of seven Research Councils that work together as [Research Councils UK](https://www.rcuk.ac.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](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/mission.aspx).

[UK Shared Business Services](http://www.uksbs.co.uk) (UK SBS) provides a range of services, including IT, to BBSRC and other public sector organisations. UK SBS enters contracts on its clients behalf and provides services to them.

**Duty to confirm or deny**

BBSRC does hold some of the information requested.
I shall answer each of your questions in turn.

1. **Does your organisation use any bespoke software systems?**

Je-s and Reviewer Matching provided by UKSBS. BBSRC Bespoke systems, other than those provided by UKSBS Ltd, are all in the space of data collection and analysis of our funding portfolio and stakeholder engagements.

   - **What is the core purpose of these system/s?**

   Je-S is an on-line electronic system used by research organisations and researchers for electronic research administration to the seven Research Councils. The system manages the lifecycle of a grant including; application submission, sending applications out to academics for peer review, grant offer and acceptance, grant maintenance, grant reconciliation and studentship reporting; and is widely used by individuals throughout the UK research community wishing to obtain funding for their research. Reviewer matching is a standalone application which interfaces with Je-S. It matches expertise between a grants application proposal and expert reviewers so that an appropriate reviewer can be selected to review a specific proposal.

   - **Do these system/s integrate with your organisations financial management systems?**

     No

   - **Do these system/s enable e-payments, online payments or BACS transactions?**

     No

   - **Which company/companies are you contracted to for each bespoke software system?**

     Eduserv provide infrastructure hosting; UK SBS provide system support and development.

   - **What is the total value of each of these contracts over their respective terms?**

     Eduserv - £ 736,358.40 inc VAT, UK SBS Je-S is a component system of the overall Grants service and therefore charged as part of that. Please note that BBSRC do not pay a charge directly to UKSBS for the services provided. These charges are top-sliced from our grant in aid received from BEIS. We do not receive a breakdown of the total cost of the services provided by UKSBS and are only provided with the total figure annually via BEIS.

   - **When does the current contract term for these system/s expire?**

     Eduserv – 31/3/2019

   - **Who are the technical and procurement leads for these system/s and their contact details?**

     UK SBS - Please use this link to the UKSBS procument page on their website [http://www.uksbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.uksbs.co.uk/services/procure/Pages/default.aspx) and this will also provide you with their contact details.

     BBSRC - The following details are supplied in response to this FOI but are provided under license that they cannot be used for marketing or sales.

     Paul Chitson, Associate Director, Information. Email:paul.chitson@bbsrc.ac.uk
2. Is your organisation in the process of exploring the scope or planning the procurement of a bespoke software system or an off-the-shelf commercially branded software system which you envisage will require bespoke development to fit your organisation’s needs?

No. Decisions on all future systems and procurement will fall to UK Research and Innovation.

The information supplied in this document should not be used for sales calls

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/.