



Reference: FOI4454

Request:

Could you please supply me the following procurement information in your capacity as a Local Education Authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For each of the categories that follow, could you please answer the questions below as they relate to schools. If individual schools have their own arrangements, please make that clear and provide information for each where that is available.

- A. Finance systems for schools (financial management systems, FMS)
- B. Budgets systems for schools (budget monitoring/planning systems)
- C. School management information systems (MIS)
- D. Payroll software or provider for schools
- E. HR software or service for schools Questions:

1. Who is the current software or service provider?*

A, C: Software is provided by ESS, and a software support service is provided under SLA by the local authority.

D & E - Schools choose to use their own software for managing their people management services; where they are part of an HR Administration/ Payroll SLA with the underlying software that is used is an Oracle database.

2. What is the existing contract spend separated into annual spend and maintenance costs, if applicable?*

A, C This is not a Council cost, but is charged on a per-pupil basis to schools.

D & E - costs for HR Administration/payroll are funded by the service provider who offers the SLA to schools and these costs are not directly passed onto Schools.

3. What is the contract's length, when does it end, how long is the procurement notice period and process length, what is the procurement system used?

A, C The software has recently moved to a new supplier. It is currently on annual renewal as it is dependent on schools renewing their SLA annually, for those schools that choose to purchase their licensing via the local authority.

D & E - N/A: the system used is part of wider arrangements and for schools there is not a separate process.

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Who is the procurement process decision maker? Please specify their name and role.

A, C - There is no one decision maker; as explained above, the renewal depends on each individual school choosing to purchase their chosen MIS system.

D & E - There is no specific Schools software system/ provider. Additionally, this information will not be provided under GDPR considerations at this current moment in time and additionally, as there is no procurement process envisaged for a school specific payroll there is no data to provide.

5. Do you, as a local authority, mandate (i.e. through an SLA) that your schools use a service package or supplier arranged by yourselves, or are they able to choose?

A, C - No- the SLA includes separate options for software, support or both. We support many schools that purchase their software directly from the supplier.

D & E - for HR Administration and Payroll the SLA is offered using an existing platform, e.g. Oracle, as the SLA offered includes the administration using this system as part of the SLA provider offer.

6. If schools are able to choose a software and services provider, are there any categories in which choice is mandated by you as a local authority while others are left for schools to choose, i.e. a mix and match basis?

A, C As above, we offer software and support options separately and schools are free to choose either or both.

D&E - see previous comments - schools have a right to choose. Where payroll services are provided via an SLA see comments to Q5 above.

7. If applicable, what is the system implementation provider, shared service provider or technical support provider?

A, C Software support is provided under SLA by the local authority. Assuming 'implementation provider' relates to system upgrades, we have some schools that choose to be hosted by the local authority and some that choose to host their own software. System upgrades are provided by the local authority for hosted schools; schools hosting their own software carry out their own upgrades.

D&E - see comments already provided.

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8. Is there a system replacement or transformation project being planned, and if so is it to be outsourced?

A, C - Assuming this question relates to the software applications, this would be a decision for schools. We are not aware of any school planning a system replacement.

D & E - see comments above.

9. Is there any system integration in between any of the categories mentioned?

A, C - The MIS and financial management systems are integrated.

D&E - Payroll and HR administration are inter linked - but as noted above Schools have their own HR records/ databases maintained at school level and these are not aligned / integrated into other systems.

Could you also please tell me how many schools your local authority supports, i.e. the number of local authority-maintained schools.

Under LMS and delegated authority held by schools, even those that are maintained do not need to (nor are they required to) use any services offered by an LA. schools have a right to choose.

A-C - We support 76 schools under SLA. This includes academies and other categories of school as well as maintained schools. As above, schools have autonomy to buy into any software provision or support service they choose.

For D&E Payroll and HR Administration are provided by a private company and this information will not be provided as it is specifically / commercially held via the private provider.