

Chief Executive
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Tel: 028 9536 3863
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

23rd August 2022

BY EMAIL

Our Ref: FOI 1764

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request for information was received 26th July 2022 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to Courses and Training.

Please find this information, below.

- 1. What is your total annual budget (£ GBP) for project, programme, and portfolio management training courses (22/23)? Course examples include, but are not limited to: PRINCE2, Agile PM, MSP, ITIL, PRINCE2 Agile, APM PFQ or PMQ, PMP etc.**

The BSO does not have a training budget for project, programme and portfolio management training. BSO Directorates do have training budgets allocated for 2022/23 however, these will be based on training needs analysis for the Directorates as a whole and not necessarily set for project, programme and portfolio management training courses.

- 2. What was your total expenditure per year, broken down by course name and course delivery type (e.g. e-learning (self-paced) or classroom) for project, programme and portfolio management training courses in 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22? e.g.**



Financial Year	Course Type	Cost
2017	• PRINCE 2 - Introduction/Foundation/Practitioner • ITIL Courses	£109,703.43
2018	• PRINCE 2 - Introduction/Foundation/Practitioner • ITIL Courses	£87,151,.79
2019	• PRINCE 2 - Introduction • /Foundation/Practitioner • ITIL Courses	£49,530
2020	• PRINCE 2 - Introduction/Foundation/Practitioner • ITIL Courses	£54,784
2021	• PRINCE 2 - Introduction/Foundation/Practitioner • ITIL Courses	£33,207

Course attendance would normally have been in person, however, during the pandemic, these would have taken place on line. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to advise if any of these courses were self-paced learning.

3. Which public sector frameworks (or other contracts) do you use for project, programme and portfolio management training courses (if any)?
4. If a contract or framework is in place, when is this due to expire?

In response to questions 3 and 4, BSO do not use a public sector framework or other contracts to procure project, programme and portfolio management training courses. The BSO Leadership Centre provides some of this training courses via an internal service level agreement. These can range from management development to IT courses.

5. Which external training/course providers for project, programme and portfolio management training courses do you use (provide company name) and what proportion of expenditure did each receive in 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22? e.g.

BSO have used a number of training providers for project, programme and portfolio management training courses. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to provide details of providers or the expenditure paid to each provider as this is commercially sensitive information.

Therefore, I wish to advise you that the information you have requested is deemed exempt.

This exemption is claimed in respect of Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Commercial Interests). Section 43 is a qualified exemption and as such a Public Interest Test is attached.

6. For project, programme and portfolio management training courses below the value threshold for formal tendering process how is a provider selected? Is there a pre-approved supplier list for teams/individuals to choose from? What is the process to get added to this list?

Training providers are selected based on the content and cost of their courses to ensure they meet the needs of participants and that it provides value for money. I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within 2 months of the date of issue of this letter, as the BSO, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed. All suppliers are encouraged to register on our electronic tendering system so as to access all Northern Ireland Public Sector tenders of below and above threshold value. Supplier registration can be completed via eTendersNI.gov.uk

7. Please provide details of the department responsible for choosing and procuring training providers as well as the senior responsible person for decision approval?

Each directorate within BSO is responsible for procuring their own specific training courses specific to the needs of their staff. The Learning and Development team in BSO are responsible for procuring corporate courses for all staff to access.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm. A.', followed by a long horizontal stroke.

for Karen Bailey
Chief Executive

Public Interest Test

Public Interest Test Training course providers and expenditure	
Exemption claimed in respect of Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; Commercial Interests	
In favour of disclosure of information	In favour of not disclosing information
1) Expenditure of public money requires openness, transparency and accountability and disclosure of information could aid the public's understanding.	1) Disclosure of this commercially sensitive information would or would be likely to cause prejudice to the commercial activities of Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSCNI)
2) Disclosing information could feasibly aid the public in understanding public authority contracting arrangements.	2) In this instance there is a limited market for such services. The disclosure of the information would or would be likely to prejudice the relevant companies market positions and may also prejudice other bidders' market position at a future date
	3) Disclosure of the information would or would be likely to be advantageous to any rivals within a competitive tender situation, and therefore disclosure of this information may prejudice this.