

Ref: FOI2025-019

[REDACTED]

31 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to our previous correspondence regarding your request for the following information:

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) UK are exploiting a loophole in pension law to freeze increases in payouts for many former Digital (DEC) UK employees, despite the cost of living costs. This only affects the UK and no other European countries.

“Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) presents itself as the most ethical company in the world, but it takes advantage of the weakness in the UK pension legislation relating to pre-1997 service” as stated in Parliament on 2nd May 2024 (<https://shorturl.at/5Vmjr>) Regardless of its legality, this practice is heartless, immoral and unethical, and it is absolutely unacceptable from a major global corporation, whom exploit a weakness in UK legislation to award 0% increases for 19 years #HPE!

Hence I am trying to find out Hewlett – Packard Limited (Trading as HPE) revenue spend with the Government. Can you please advise the values of HPE spend with the AWE since 2004, including I believe the Atomic Weapons Establishment, receiving £978m) is HP, which received £799m through its HP Enterprise Services Defence & Security UK subsidiary. It may have earned a bit more through other subsidiaries including Autonomy,

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

A search has been carried out to locate the information you requested and we can confirm that AWE has not been able to locate any relevant information for 2004 – 2018. However, we can confirm that AWE holds values for 2019-2024 and is withholding the information under section 43 of the FOI Act.

Section 43(2) of the Act exempts information which when disclosed would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This includes sensitive procurement data of a financial nature and relationships with third parties.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT) which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

AWE considered the distinction that has been often made by courts between things that are in the public interest, and things that merely interest the public, and identified the following public interest factors that may be seen as encouraging the disclosure of information:

Disclosing the amount spent on a specific supplier would promote transparency and accountability, allowing the public to gain insight into how public funds are allocated and spent, ensuring that financial resources are being used efficiently and effectively.

However, revealing the amount spent will expose commercially sensitive details which would be highly advantageous to competitors of AWE suppliers and damaging confidence levels in the market of current and potential suppliers, consequently damage the working relation suppliers have with AWE.

After considering the arguments for and against disclosure, it is determined that the public interest in withholding the value spent on a specific AWE supplier outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the reasons stated above and release of the information would be likely to prejudice AWE's commercial interests.

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