Freedom of Information request ref 01/FOI/26/4374
We received your request on the 31/07/2026.

Request

You asked us:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could provide the following details regarding your police force's IT expenditure for the past three fiscal years (from 2023/24 to 2025/26):

1) Total IT Expenditure:
Please provide the overall IT expenditure for each of the last three fiscal years.

2) Software Expenditure:
Please provide the total spend on software for each of the last three fiscal years. This should include initial software licence fees, software maintenance fees, and subscription fees but should exclude associated services such as installation.

3) Cell-Site, Communications Data and Digital Forensics Software – Supplier and Spend Detail:
For each of the last three fiscal years, please provide the following for any software used for cell-site analysis, communications data analysis (e.g. call data records / CDRs), digital device extraction analysis, or associated intelligence / link analysis. This includes, for example, products supplied by Forensic Analytics Ltd, Chorus Intelligence Ltd, or equivalent providers:
- the name of the supplier and the product(s) held;
- the total spend or annual contract value (including licence, maintenance and subscription fees, but excluding associated services such as installation, training or consultancy);
- the number of software licences or named users held;

If supplier- or contract-level information is not held in this form, I would instead be grateful for the total software spend (as defined at point 2 above) on software of this type — i.e. software primarily used by cell-site / communications data units, digital forensics units, or intelligence / analysis teams, as opposed to software used across the wider police force — for each of the last three fiscal years.

If any part of this request is unclear or would benefit from further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above email address. I understand that under the Act, I am entitled to a response within 20 working days. I would prefer the information to be provided in electronic format via email.

Note: If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Our response:

Question 1

Total IT Expenditure	£
FY 2023-2024	18,028,720.06
FY 2024-2025	19,623,111.74
FY 2025-2026	22,381,831.08

Question 2

Total Spend on Software	£
FY 2023-2024	9,277,838.29
FY 2024-2025	13,243,977.09
FY 2025-2026	16,224,424.85

Question 3

We consider this element of the request to be invalid as it is not sufficiently clear to enable the information sought to be identified.

As currently worded, the request would require British Transport Police to determine its own criteria for deciding which software products, suppliers and licences fall within scope. This would involve applying a subjective interpretation of the request and effectively constructing a dataset based on what British Transport Police considers may be relevant, rather than identifying recorded information described with sufficient precision by the applicant.

The Freedom of Information Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority. However, before searches can be undertaken, the information requested must be described with sufficient clarity to enable it to be identified.

In this case, the scope is open to interpretation and British Transport Police is unable to determine with certainty which software products or suppliers the applicant intends to include.