

**Subject:** Request for information regarding payments to external suppliers between 01 January 2019 and 31 December 2020.

**FOI reference:** 20100233240

**Date received:** 24 August 2021

**Date responded:** 15 September 2021

**Information requested:**

“I am requesting information on all payments to external suppliers for purchases of goods and services between 2019-01-01 and 2020-12-31.

What is requested is a list of these payments, ideally in Microsoft Excel format, which contains as much of the following information for each payment as possible.

- **Supplier name**
- **Amount paid, excluding VAT**
- **Payment date (or some other relevant transaction date)**
- **A unique invoice-id or a transaction-id number for each payment.**
- **Some description of the nature of the expense”**

**NRS Response:**

A copy of most of the information requested is enclosed. The extract provided details the amount paid by supplier excluding VAT with a description of the nature of the expense for the period requested. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide detailed transactions including a unique “invoice-id” or a “transaction-id” for each payment because an exemption under section 35(1)(a) (prevention or detection of crime) of FOISA applies to this information. The reasons why that exemption applies are explained in the Annex to this letter.

Information on new regulated contracts awarded (i.e. supplier/contract title/duration/value) for the period in question is also included in the Annual Procurement reports which are publically available on the National Records of Scotland Website <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/procurement> or on the documents section of NRS buyers page on Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) at [Buyer View - Public Contracts Scotland](#). The NRS buyer’s page on PCS also contains contract award notices for our regulated contracts.

## **Annex - Reasons for not providing information**

### An exemption applies, subject to the public interest test

An exemption under section 35(1)(a) (prevention or detection of crime) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested because its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. The release of this information would reveal to the world at large details of NRS's procurement information that a malicious third party could exploit to carrying out a criminal act.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption.

We recognise that there is some public interest in disclosing information as part of open government, and we acknowledge the general interest of the public in our payments to external suppliers for purchases of goods and services. However, the importance of protecting the public by maintaining the security of some of our purchase information and protecting public data far outweighs the general interest in this case. There is no public interest in releasing information which could jeopardise the security of the public data we take care to safeguard.