

## **F-2015-00127- I.T. projects**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2015

### **Summary of request**

The Authority was asked for information related to its I.T. projects.

### **HFEA response**

You have requested data to fulfil the following points:

- Could you please provide me with a report showing the various IT projects / programmes that are currently being conducted by your IT department. Have you begun or completed any IT projects in 2015, or shall you begin any IT projects in 2015?

The Information For Quality (IfQ) Programme is underway and includes 3 IT related projects

IfQ internal systems project - Reviewing and improving internal systems

IfQ Clinic Portal project - -- Reviewing and improving the portal that is used by clinics to submit data to the HFEA

IfQ websites – Reviewing and improving our website & choose a fertility clinic tool

Request for Proposals are currently out to tender via the Crown Commercial Service Digital Services Framework , reference 215 to 220. In addition, The HFEA will be running a pilot project to investigate the feasibility of moving some of its systems to a cloud hosted model.

- If so, what shall the projects entail, who is responsible for project delivery, and what is the budget?

The person ultimately responsible for delivery of the programme is the Senior Responsible Owner & Director of Compliance and Information Nick Jones.

Our policy is not to provide budget information whilst a tender is in progress. Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act provides that information may be exempt information, subject to the public interest, if the release of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding it.

The HFEA is fully committed to the importance of transparency and the need to account for public funds. However, account has to be taken of the need to ensure that the commercial interests of third parties are not prejudiced or undermined by disclosure of information which could adversely impact on future business and, indeed, the confidence our suppliers have in us as an organisation. There is therefore a need to protect the legitimate commercial interests of our suppliers.

Whilst I accept the public interest in disclosing this information would promote greater transparency in the allocation of public money, in this case we consider that the public interest in favour of disclosing such information is outweighed by the necessity to protect the commercial interests of third parties. The public interest is best served by ensuring that companies are able to compete fairly and that there is competition for public sector contracts.

- I would also like to request the names of each project leader / provider.

The person ultimately responsible for delivery of the programme is the Senior Responsible Owner & Director of Compliance and Information Nick Jones.

- Furthermore, could you please provide me with the start and completion date of these projects?

It is expected that contracts start in June 2015 and will be completed during the 2015/16 financial year.