

# East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/549595

*Could you provide me with some contract information relating to following information:*

- 1. Standard Firewall (Network) - Firewall service protects your corporate Network from unauthorised access and other Internet security threats**
- 2. Anti-virus Software Application - Anti-virus software is a program or set of programs that are designed to prevent, search for, detect, and remove software viruses, and other malicious software like worms, trojans, adware, and more.**
- 3. Microsoft Enterprise Agreement - is a volume licensing package offered by Microsoft.**

*The information I require is around the procurement side and we do not require any specifics (serial numbers, models, location) that could bring threat/harm to the organisation.*

*For each of the different types of cyber security services can you please provide me with:*

- 1. Who is the existing supplier for this contract?**
  - a. Firewalls – Sapphire Technologies
  - b. Anti-Virus – Chess Cybersecurity Ltd
  - c. Microsoft EA – Insight Direct
- 2. What does the organisation spend for each of contract?**
  - a. Firewalls - £17,770
  - b. Anti-Virus – £36,000
  - c. Microsoft EA - £180,000
- 3. What is the description of the services provided for each contract? Please do not just state firewall.**
  - a. Firewall – Firewall support, annual software maintenance, annual hardware maintenance
  - b. Anti-Virus – 4 year software subscription
  - c. Microsoft EA – 3 year software licensing
- 4. Primary Brand (ONLY APPLIES TO CONTRACT 1&2)**

Please refer to Appendix I overleaf.

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**5. What is the expiry date of each contract?**

- a. Firewall – March 2021
- b. Anti-Virus – September 2019
- c. Microsoft EA – November 2019

**6. What is the start date of each contract?**

- a. A Firewall – March 2014
- b. Anti-Virus – September 2016
- c. Microsoft EA – November 2017

**7. What is the contract duration of contract?**

- a. Firewall – 5+1+1 Years
- b. Anti-Virus – 4 Years
- c. Microsoft EA – 3 years

**8. The responsible contract officer for each of the contracts above? Full name, job title, contact number and direct email address.**

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**9. Number of License (ONLY APPLIES TO CONTRACT 3)**

1,701 initially with true ups/true downs at each annual review point.

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## Appendix I

Although East Lothian Council (ELC) does hold this information, it is exempt from release under Section 30(c) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Section 30(c) relates to the "prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs" and states that:

*Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act—*

*(c) would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs.*

When information is released as the result of a freedom of information request it is technically released to the general public, and not just to the person or organisation making the information request.

In this instance, if ELC were to release this information into the public domain, it is likely that our IT security systems would be seriously compromised and the Council would be unable to satisfactorily protect its systems and data from corruption or access by unauthorised agents. The makes and models of this equipment would provide a starting point for anyone wishing to mount an attack on ELC's network. These details would allow them to target specific vulnerabilities associated with the specific brand.

In the event of this happening, ELC's ability to offer an effective public service and to meet its wider objectives and purpose would be compromised due to the disruption caused by the disclosure and the diversion of resources in managing the impact of disclosure. It is also possible that the large amount of personal data and sensitive personal data held on ELC's systems could be accessed or corrupted and this would further affect our ability to provide vital services to individuals as well as breaching the rights of data subjects laid out in the Data Protection Act 2018.

This exemption is subject to the Public Interest Test and ELC is obliged to consider the public interest in both releasing and withholding this information. The public interest in this information being released is that it would show that ELC is open and transparent in its dealings with the public. However, ELC considers that there is a greater public interest in ensuring that our systems and data are fully protected from potential attack and interference. The population of East Lothian relies on the Council to run services, some of which are essential to the wellbeing of vulnerable individuals, and it is crucial that nothing is allowed to compromise the continuing ability to do this. The nuisance and disruption in reconstituting the information held by the Council would impact on people's lives within the Council's administrative area. Also, if people's data were to be accessed by unauthorised external agents, it could cause them damage, distress or loss.

Bearing all this in mind, ELC is of the opinion that the public interest in non-disclosure outweighs the public interest in disclosure and has withheld the information.