

BCE FOI/2023/09

Thank you for your email request for information to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) on 26 April 2023, which has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

In your request for information you asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

- *The duration of time utilising cloud infrastructure.*
- *The criteria used to choose a cloud provider.*
- *The percentage of infrastructures employing cloud services.*
- *The supplier of cloud infrastructures used. (AWS/Oracle/Azure etc.)*
- *Case studies highlighting the successful implementation of the 'Cloud-first' strategy.*
- *The uptime of the cloud infrastructure.*
- *The annual budget over the last five years for IT-managed services*
- *Please provide the percentage spent on cloud-managed services*

BCE Response:

All of the following responses relate to the financial years from April 2017 to March 2022. The audited costs for the 2022-2023 financial year are not yet available.

The duration of time utilising cloud infrastructure.

We held contracts including cloud infrastructure throughout the period.

Provision by Informed Solutions of a online consultation portals www.bce2018.org.uk and www.bcereviews.org.uk, and a managed geographic information service running to October 2018, and from December 2020 to September 2023.

Provision by dxw of our corporate website

boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk throughout this period.

The criteria used to choose a cloud provider.

We did not choose the cloud provider in any of the mentioned contracts. Each contract was for a managed service where the provider selected the cloud solution. We selected the providers using Cabinet Office rules in force at the time of contract placement.

The percentage of infrastructures employing cloud services.

We do not hold this information, as most of our infrastructure is provided by our sponsor department rather than contracted directly by the Boundary Commission for England. Prior to 8 December 2021, this was the Cabinet Office. From 8 December 2021 we are sponsored by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, but are also using Cabinet Office IT pending the transition to their systems. You can contact the Cabinet Office at foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk and Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities at mhclgcorrespondence@levellingup.gov.uk.

The supplier of cloud infrastructures used. (AWS/Oracle/Azure etc.)

Amazon Web Services

Case studies highlighting the successful implementation of the 'Cloud-first' strategy.

We do not hold any case studies relating to this subject.

The uptime of the cloud infrastructure.

99.9%, excluding planned maintenance down time.

The annual budget over the last five years for IT-managed services

2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
£259,411	£108,738	£6,350	£129,210	£335,710

Please provide the percentage spent on cloud-managed services

2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
27%	34%	9%	3%	22%

Note:

The submission of the Report of recommendations for new Parliamentary constituencies to the House of Commons on 27 June 2023 formally ended the Commission's involvement with the 2023 review. The next review of constituencies will be the 2031 review. As a consequence, the majority of the services highlighted above will be taken off-line imminently.

Under the provisions of the FOI Act if you are dissatisfied with the response provided you may wish to ask for an internal review. If this situation arises you should write to:

The Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 3BQ

Email: information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk

If it transpires you are not content with our response or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the BCE. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Office of the Information Commissioner,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,

SK9 5AF

Kind regards

