

FOI REF:	16719
RESPONSE SENT:	03/03/26

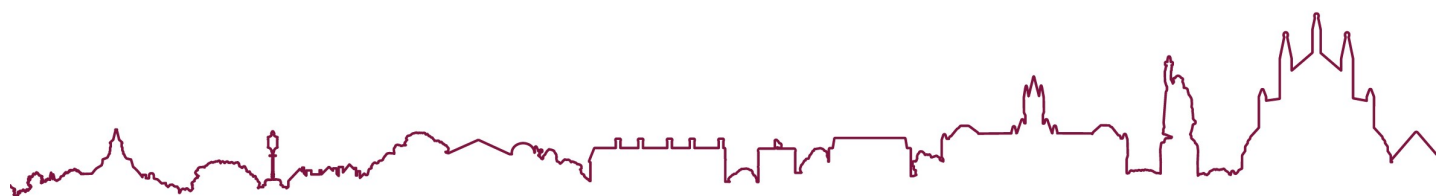
Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded information held by your department regarding assurance processes for software based data erasure of end of life IT equipment.

For clarity, this request relates solely to software based data destruction. Please exclude physical destruction methods such as shredding, crushing, degaussing or disintegration.

1. Please confirm whether departmental policy, contractual terms or internal procedures require an explicit outcome based warranty or guarantee confirming that personal data has been rendered irretrievable through software based erasure, whether carried out internally or by an external provider.
2. Where software based data destruction is performed internally, what recorded evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that the final data state is irretrievable?
3. Where software based data destruction is performed by a third party provider, does the department hold recorded information demonstrating that any warranty or assurance provided explicitly extends to the software erasure method used and its claimed effectiveness? If so, please confirm the recorded nature of that verification.
4. Where no explicit outcome based warranty is required or provided, what recorded form of evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that software based erasure has rendered personal data irretrievable?

I am not requesting technical configuration detail, security sensitive information or supplier specific vulnerabilities. I am seeking confirmation of the assurance model relied upon for software based data destruction.



Response

1. The organisation does not perform software-based data wiping, either internally or via a third-party provider. Accordingly, we do not hold any recorded information indicating a requirement for outcome-based warranties or guarantees relating to software based erasure.
2. The organisation does not carry out software-based data destruction in-house. We therefore do not hold any recorded information relating to internal assurance mechanisms for such processes.
3. The organisation does not use any third-party provider to perform software-based data erasure prior to destruction. We therefore do not hold any recorded verification, warranties, or assurances relating to software-based erasure methods or their effectiveness.
4. As the organisation does not use software-based erasure methods at all, this scenario does not arise. We therefore do not hold any recorded forms of evidential assurance relating to software-based erasure.

