



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1672
Date 15 December 2023

Dear

GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON BIBBY STOCKHOLM

Thank you for your request of 17 November 2023 for information about government spending on the Bibby Stockholm. We have considered your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We can confirm that we hold some information in scope of your request.

We are currently undertaking an examination of the Home Office's plans to develop larger-scale sites to house people seeking asylum. An outline of our work can be found on our [website](#). This work will result in a published report that will be laid in Parliament. The report will set out the facts about the costs of different types of asylum accommodation, including accommodation centres, and how the Home Office plans and oversees such projects. As part of this work we will examine the value for money case of the large accommodation sites, including the Bibby Stockholm vessel. We expect to publish the report in early spring. We do not hold the information requested in part 2 of your request as our examination has not yet concluded.

Your specific request is set out in **Annex A** for reference. **Annex B** sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under FOIA.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team

Annex A

Request for information:

(Your request is in italics and our response below)

"I would like to make a FOI request concerning government spending on the Bibby Stockholm project, as follows:

- 1. Has the NAO investigated the value for money (the effectiveness, efficiency and economy) of government spending on the Home Office project to house asylum seekers on the Bibby Stockholm in Portland Harbour?*
- 2. If so, please supply a copy of NAO's report or supply details of findings.*
- 3. Please give details of any such investigation in progress."*

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI@nao.org.uk or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Alternatively, you can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.