



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending  
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1715

Date 30 April 2024

## NAO REPORT ON THE BOUNCE BACK LOAN SCHEME

Thank you for your request of 13 April 2024 in which you ask for information relating to the National Audit Office (NAO) report [The Bounce Back Loan Scheme: an update](#) published on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. You asked for specific information relating to the procurement of the National Investigation Service (NATIS). Your request was considered in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Having reviewed our records, I can confirm that we do not hold the information you have requested within the scope of the request. The procurement of NATIS services was not within the scope of our work.

Your specific request is reproduced in **Annex A** for your 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

### Your original request for information about the procurement of NATIS

(Your request is in italics below)

*To the Freedom of Information team at the National Audit Office*

*I appreciate you are busy.*

*My enquiry relates to the Bounce Back Loan Scheme: An Update report published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021.*

*This report contains a reference to the National Investigation Service (NATIS).*

*The report indicated that “**The Department identified a “strong return on investment” for using NATIS. It stated, as a benefit that NATIS had recovered £8 for every £1 spent investigating another public sector scheme.**”*

*It also states that NATIS is a law enforcement body specialising in financial crime and fraud, mostly at local authority level. NATIS will investigate and prosecute medium/high severity fraud cases supported by the Crown Prosecution Service*

*I therefore would like to request the following*

- A breakdown of the process was undertaken to procure the services of NATIS in regards to their involvement with the investigations of the Bounce Back Loan Scheme, and,*
- Copies of any submissions from NATIS with regards to that process (so power point presentation, PDFs of documents etc)*

*Thank you for your assistance.*

## 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.requests@nao.org.uk](mailto:FOI.requests@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: [www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints). Alternatively, you can contact the ICO at [Contact us | ICO](#) or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.