Request

This request relates to governance, financial oversight and efficiency of public cloud expenditure.

Please provide the following recorded information for the most recently completed financial year, and where available the current financial year to date:

1. Total annual spend on Microsoft Azure (or equivalent public cloud infrastructure services).

2. Any recorded internal audit, external audit, review, or assurance findings relating to:

- cost optimisation

- unused or idle resources

- reserved capacity usage

- licensing optimisation (including hybrid licensing benefits)

- cloud financial management practices

3. The existence (yes/no and date of issue) of any policies, standards or procedures covering:

- cloud cost management

- resource lifecycle management

- automated shutdown of unused resources

- tagging or ownership requirements for cloud resources

4. Any recorded metrics, reports or dashboards already produced for management oversight showing:

- proportion of reserved vs pay-as-you-go usage

- identification of unused/orphaned resources

- optimisation savings achieved or savings opportunities identified

(aggregated or percentage figures only — no technical detail required)

5. Whether the organisation operates a formal FinOps, cloud financial governance, or equivalent cost management function (yes/no) and the date it was established if applicable.

6. The date of the most recent formal review of cloud expenditure efficiency carried out by or for the organisation.

This request seeks high-level governance and financial oversight information only and does not require disclosure of security architecture, system configurations, commercially sensitive unit pricing, or personal data.

Response

1. The annual spend on Microsoft Azure was £18,550 for 2025.

2 – 6. Microsoft Azure or equivalent public cloud infrastructure services is used for some parishes services. These are configured to optimise cost and licensing in relation to parishes performance and resilience requirements. Cost optimisation measures included automatic shutdown of the separate user acceptance testing instance and reserving instances for three years to obtain more favourable pricing. There are no unused or idle resources or reserved capacity and no unused/orphaned resources.

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