

QUARTER 2 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSES

Year	Month	FOI Reference	Topic
2017	Apr	FOI/17/017	Ministerial briefing notes
2017	Apr	FOI/17/018	Ministerial briefing notes
2017	Apr	FOI/17/032	Falsified Curriculum Vitae and staff pay bands
2017	Apr	FOI/17/034	2017 Northern Ireland election costs
2017	Apr	FOI/17/036	Visual representations of a hard border
2017	Apr	FOI/17/037	Cyber-security breaches
2017	Apr	FOI/17/038	Girdwood Park plans
2017	Apr	FOI/17/039	Cyber-security strategy
2017	Apr	FOI/17/040	Justice and Securities (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 - policies and guidance regarding children
2017	Apr	FOI/17/051	Mental health studies
2017	May	FOI/17/033	Access to archival record - CJ 4/3470
2017	May	FOI/17/041	Prince of Wales correspondence
2017	May	FOI/17/042	Security passes and security strategy material
2017	May	FOI/17/043	Contingency plans for Exiting the EU without a trade deal
2017	May	FOI/17/044	Spending on services provided by Henley Research International Ltd
2017	May	FOI/17/045	Annual budget and staffing between 2010 and 2016
2017	May	FOI/17/047	Political party donations
2017	May	FOI/17/048	Correspondence from political parties on donation disclosures
2017	May	FOI/17/049	Contract renewals and extensions
2017	May	FOI/17/050	Speaking clock phone calls
2017	May	FOI/17/053	Administrative and front of house staffing
2017	May	FOI/17/054	Fruitless spending, losses and special payments
2017	May	FOI/17/055	Phishing attacks
2017	May	FOI/17/060	PSNI and Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas (NI-CO) work with the Sultanate of Oman
2017	May	FOI/17/062	Attempted and successful cyber-attacks
2017	Jun	FOI/17/056	Cyber-security investment

2017	Jun	FOI/17/059	Attempted cyber-attacks
2017	Jun	FOI/17/061	International cyber-attack impact
2017	Jun	FOI/17/064	Access to archival records - Morton reports
2017	Jun	FOI/17/065	PSNI and NIO correspondence containing the words 'critical' and 'Manchester'
2017	Jun	FOI/17/066	Management salaries of Northern Irish charities
2017	Jun	FOI/17/067	External law firm spending
2017	Jun	FOI/17/068	Prince William correspondence
2017	Jun	FOI/17/070	Facilities management contracts
2017	Jun	FOI/17/071	Investigations into expense fraud
2017	Jun	FOI/17/074	Staff contact details
2017	Jun	FOI/17/079	Re-imaging programme
2017	Jun	FOI/17/086	Northern Ireland Executive minute taking
2017	Jun	FOI/17/088	Staffing between 2010 and 2017
2017	Jun	FOI/17/090	Recruitment companies

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/017
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to make a freedom of information request.</i></p> <p><i>Please could you also provide me with briefing notes given to James Brokenshire, Lord Dunlop and Kris Hopkins when they assumed their positions in July?</i></p>
Response	<p>This information is exempt under sections 24, 35 and 36 of the Freedom of the Information Act.</p> <p>Section 24 exempts information from disclosure if its exemption is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security, It is a qualified exemption so we have given due consideration to whether the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding the information. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but consider that there is a stronger public interest in protecting national security.</p> <p>Section 35(1)(a) protects information relating to the formulation or development of government policy and (b) Ministerial communications, and Section 36 prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs.</p>

	<p>We have considered the public interest in disclosing this information. There is a public interest in the way in which government decisions are made and how relationships with other stakeholders are conducted. Disclosure would help the public to appreciate the considerations surrounding policy discussions, and the context in which Ministers operate. There is also a public interest in how decisions are made, at what level, and the reasons behind these decisions so that government officials can be more accountable for their decisions and responsibilities. Release of the information could demonstrate the quality of advice provided by the Department. However, these factors are of modest weight in this case, as the NIO proactively publishes information about the Departmental structure, Ministers make regular statements to Parliament (both oral and in writing) on policy issues - setting out rationale and responding to questioning along those lines, and make themselves available for frequent media engagement. The department also responds to public inquiries on a range of matters through Treat Officials and Minister's Cases, and undertakes structured engagement with a wide range of relevant interlocutors.</p> <p>This information was provided with a reasonable expectation that it would not be released into the public domain; it was contextual background provided to ensure Ministers had a written briefing supporting their induction into the Department. We have not found a precedent for other Departments releasing such materials. It would seem a reasonable assumption that much of the advice provided then filtered through into Parliamentary statements, other public comments and correspondence relating to the issues covered, where appropriate. To release the information could also put a greater focus on process than policy decisions.</p> <p>After careful consideration we have concluded that s 24, s 35(a) (b) and s 36 2(a) (b) is engaged and it is in the public interest to withhold the documents.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/018
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<p><i>Please could you provide me with:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Any briefing materials, speaking notes and other preparatory material for James Brokenshire's interview with RTE News on 15 July.</i> 2. <i>Any internal correspondence on the wording of these remarks before and after the interview.</i> 3. <i>Briefing materials, speaking notes and other preparatory material for Mr Brokenshire's participation in Northern Ireland Questions in the House of Commons on 20 July.</i> 4. <i>Any earlier drafts of the Mr Brokenshire's speaking notes and any internal correspondence on how his remarks should be worded.</i>

Response	<p>This information is exempt under sections 35 and 36 of the Freedom of the Information Act. Section 35(1)(a) protects information relating to the formulation or development of government policy and (b) Ministerial communications and Section 36 prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs.</p> <p>We have considered the public interest in disclosing this information. There is a public interest in the way in which government decisions on public policy issues are made and communicated. Disclosure would help the public to appreciate the considerations surrounding policy communications. There is also a public interest in what advice affects Ministerial public comments. Release of the information could demonstrate the quality of advice provided by the Department. However, these factors are of modest weight in this case, as they related to public remarks by the Secretary of State. The remarks from oral questions are available online in video and audio format, and are published in written form in Hansard (https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-07-20/debates/92F38A16-5F4E-4596-A65B-51EB15A49EFD/OralAnswersToQuestions); much of the RTE interview is still accessible online (https://www.rte.ie/news/2016/0715/802603-brexit/). The NIO regularly communicates around policy issues and decisions, and has regular engagement with relevant interlocutors.</p> <p>This advice was provided with a reasonable expectation that it would not be released into the public domain; to release it would set an unhelpful precedent in terms of inhibiting free and frank advice being given to Ministers. We have not found a precedent for other Departments releasing such materials. To release the information could also risk putting a greater focus on process than policy decisions.</p> <p>After careful consideration we have concluded that s 35 (a) (b) and s 36 2(a) (b) are engaged and it is in the public interest to withhold the documents.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/032
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<p><i>I write with a request for information under the FOIA.</i></p> <p><i>My request is as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Please disclose the number of staff found to have falsified their CVs over the two years;</i> • <i>In each case, please disclose the individual's job grade and what action was taken.</i> • <i>Separately, please provide a table showing all job grades and salary bands - with a key to any grade terminology used.</i>
Response	I can confirm that no staff have been found to have falsified their CVs over the last two year period.

The Northern Ireland Office uses the MoJ pay ranges and those for Bands A – F for 2016 can be found at Annex A below.

SCS pay and conditions are not delegated to individual Departments and Departments operate a common SCS pay framework but have the flexibility to operate a higher London minima. Under this framework SCS pay ranges are determined annually by Cabinet Office. The 2016 pay ranges for SCS can be found at Annex B below.

Annex A: Summary of MoJ pay ranges from 1 August 2016

Open pay ranges for Bands A – F

Pay band	Pay Range	Area	Band Min	Band Max
Band A	1	Inner London	51,039	68,969
	Aa	Specialist + 5%	53,590	72,368
	Ab	Specialist + 10%	56,143	75,766
	Ac	Specialist + 15%	58,694	79,164
	2	Outer London	46,700	65,832
	Aa	Specialist + 5%	49,034	69,074
	Ab	Specialist + 10%	51,370	72,315
	Ac	Specialist + 15%	48,821	70,747
Band B	1	Inner London	35,540	45,964
	Ba	Specialist + 5%	37,317	48,212
	Bb	Specialist + 10%	39,094	50,461
	Bc	Specialist + 15%	40,872	52,709
	2	Outer London	33,627	43,873
	Ba	Specialist + 5%	35,309	46,016
	Bb	Specialist + 10%	36,989	48,160
	Bc	Specialist + 15%	38,671	50,304
	3	National	29,930	39,690
	Ba	Specialist + 5%	31,427	41,625
	Bb	Specialist + 10%	32,924	43,559
	Bc	Specialist + 15%	34,419	45,494
Band C	1	Inner London	29,790	37,061
	Ca	Specialist + 5%	31,280	38,864

		Cb	Specialist + 10%	32,769	40,667	
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	27,619	35,515	
		Ca	Specialist + 5%	29,000	37,241	
		Cb	Specialist + 10%	30,382	38,967	
	Band C		3	Hotspots	25,646	32,939
			Ca	Specialist + 5%	26,929	34,536
			Cb	Specialist + 10%	28,210	
			4	National Plus	23,181	30,879
			Ca	Specialist + 5%	24,340	32,373
			Cb	Specialist + 10%	25,498	33,867
			5	National (Existing)	21,559	30,879
			Ca	Specialist + 5%	22,373	32,373
			Cb	Specialist + 10%	23,438	33,867
			Band D		1	Inner London
	Db	Specialist + 10%			27,682	31,800
	2	Outer London and SE Hotspots			23,369	27,000
	Db	Specialist + 10%			25,606	29,600
	3	Hotspots			21,581	25,727
	Db	Specialist + 10%			23,638	28,200
	4	National Plus			20,246	24,244
	Db	Specialist + 10%			21,559	26,568
	5	National (Existing)			20,246	24,244
	Db	Specialist + 10%			20,467	26,568
Band E (open range)		1	Inner London	21,686	23,250	
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	20,375	21,905	
		3	Hotspots	19,055	20,550	
		4	National Plus	18,059	19,529	
		5	National Existing	18,059	19,529	
Band F		1	Inner London	18,226	19,700	

(open range)	2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	17,202	18,650
	3	Hotspots	15,594	17,000
	4	National Plus	15,131	16,524
	5	National Existing	15,131	16,524

Note: The table shows the maxima and minima for each pay range with effect from 1 August 2016

Annex B: SCS Pay Ranges with effect from 1 April 2016

	Minimum £	Maximum £
SCS Pay band 3	106,000	208,100
SCS Pay band 2	87,000	162,500
SCS Pay band 1A	67,600	128,900
SCS Pay band 1 (London)	67,500	117,800
SCS Pay band 1 (National)	64,000	117,800

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/034
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<i>What was the total cost of the 2017 Northern Ireland election, and how much of that amount was borne by Northern Ireland taxpayers?</i>
Response	<p>Under section 22 of the FOIA we are not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication. In line with the terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable.</p> <p>This request is denied under section 22 of the FOI Act. The information you have requested will be published as 'Electoral Office for NI Returning Officers' expenses & accounts 2016-17' on www.gov.uk. The most recent published information can be found at the following at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/electoral-office-for-ni-returning-officers-expenses-accounts-2015-16</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/036
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<p><i>This is a freedom of information request.</i></p> <p><i>Please can you provide any documents, maps, images, image renders or artists impressions relating to the construction, or potential or possible construction, of a "hard border" between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland?</i></p>
Response	We have undertaken a search of our records and I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/037
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to submit a question under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <p><i>Please could you tell me how many attempted cyber security breaches were detected by The Northern Ireland Office to its systems in each of the past three years?</i></p> <p><i>In each case could you detail where the breaches were detected, which were successful and what information/data, if any, was compromised as a result?</i></p>
Response	<p>The Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of both section 24(2) that relates to national security and section 31(3) that relates to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.</p> <p>Section 24 is a qualified exemption and so we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to confirm or deny whether we hold the information. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying whether the requested information is held.</p> <p>Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the government holds particular information. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department's IT systems. In this case we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information, which may have been disclosed in an unauthorised manner, is held.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/038
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to request a PDF/electronic copy of the document 'Masterplan Conceptual Framework (MCF) for Girdwood Park', released in May 2012.</i></p> <p><i>I have been able to find reference to it in a number of Assembly Questions and news reports (see for example BCC 'Girdwood Site Development Context Paper'; http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-22797984). I am unable to find a copy online.</i></p> <p><i>I am assuming this document is different to the Crumlin Road Gaol and Girdwood Park Draft Masterplan published in 2007.</i></p>
Response	<p>We do not hold any information within the scope of your request; however the Department for Communities who are responsible for this area of work may be in a position to provide you with information. Their Freedom of Information team can be contacted at the following email address: foi@communities-ni.gov.uk</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/039
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I seek the following information about the Department's cyber security strategy:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Has your department been a victim of Ransomware?</i> <i>2. If Yes - did you pay to release your data?</i> <i>3. If yes, how much did you pay?</i> <i>4. If no, how did you gain back control of your data?</i> <i>5. Do you have the following in place:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Backup – if yes</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I. What software do you use?</i> <i>II. When does your maintenance expire?</i> <i>III. How many TB of Data do you back up?</i> <i>b. Firewall – If yes:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I. What firewall do you use?</i> <i>II. When does maintenance expire?</i> <i>6. What Email system do you use, how many users?</i> <i>7. Are you planning to migrate to Microsoft Office 365?</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. If yes, why?</i>

	<p>b. Will you be adding extra security to this?</p> <p>8. What email security solution do you use?</p> <p>9. Do you use a public cloud provider, if so which one?</p> <p>a. How do you secure the data in the cloud?</p>
Response	<p>In respect of questions 1 – 5a, 7, 8 & 9 The Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1) (a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of both section 24(2) that relates to national security and sections 31(1) (a) and 31(3) (a) that relates to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.</p> <p>Section 24 is a qualified exemption and so we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to confirm or deny whether we hold the information. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying whether the requested information is held.</p> <p>Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the government holds particular information. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department’s IT systems. In this case we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information, which may have been disclosed in an unauthorised manner, is held.</p> <p>Question 5b, the Northern Ireland Office receives managed ICT services from IT Assist (ITA), which is a service provided by Enterprise Shared Services, a body within the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland. The information requested is, therefore, not held by this Department. This information may be available from the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland who can be contacted at info.csd@dfpni.gov.uk</p> <p>Question 6 – The Northern Ireland Office currently uses Microsoft Outlook and have approximately 160 users.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/040
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<p>a. Records of all consideration given to including in the Code specific protections and / or provisions relating to the use of any of the powers under sections 21, 24, 26 and schedule 3 of the JSA [Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007] in relation to children.</p> <p>b. All policies / guidance dealing with how the powers under sections 21, 24, 26 and schedule 3 of the JSA should be exercised when dealing with children.</p>

Response	<p>Please find below the responses to each of your questions</p> <p>a. The information you require is included in the Code of Practice, the specific mention of children is at 6.11 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-exercise-of-powers-in-the-justice-and-security-northern-ireland-act-2007</p> <p>b. The information you require is included in the Code of Practice https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-exercise-of-powers-in-the-justice-and-security-northern-ireland-act-2007</p> <p>The PSNI may hold other relevant information; they can be contacted at the following email address: foi@psni.pnn.police.uk</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/051
Month Issued	April 2017
Request	<i>I wondered as a FOI Query if, in the case of NI, which currently suffers from some of the worst mental health in the world, any studies had yet been carried out into possible causes or if any trends or patterns had been identified?</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request; however the Department of Health may be able to assist with your enquiry. Their FOI team can be contacted at the following address FOI@dhsspsni.gov.uk

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/033
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<i>I would like to request access to information contained within record number CJ 4/3470 pertaining to studies or assessments of Britain's strategic interest in Northern Ireland.</i>
Response	<p>I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does hold the information requested, however this file is to be withheld in full under section 24 and 27 of the Act.</p> <p>Section 24 exempts information from disclosure if its exemption is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but consider that there is a stronger public interest in protecting national security.</p> <p>Section 27(1) of the Act exempts information from disclosure if its release would be likely to harm international relations.</p> <p>The exemption is subject to a test of the balance of public interest. This means that, if information falls within the terms of the exemption, it is necessary to consider whether the public interest in all the circumstances of the particular case requires</p>

	<p>the information to be released or withheld. The information may only be withheld if the public interest in withholding outweighs the public interest in disclosure.</p> <p>In deciding whether to disclose the information which is exempt under the legislation we have considered the following public interest reasons in favour of disclosing the information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater transparency and openness can improve accountability and public trust; and • To provide transparency over the meetings and activities of UK Government Ministers and officials in conducting government business. <p>We have balanced these arguments in favour of disclosure against other factors which support withholding the documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to ensure that HM Government is able to fully pursue the interests of the United Kingdom abroad; and • That Ministers, officials and stakeholders should be able to engage in full and frank discussions with representatives of foreign governments. <p>For these reasons, we have concluded in this case that the harm that would result from disclosure of the exempt information outweighs the public interest arguments in favour of disclosure. It is essential that we are able to create a safe space to allow UK Government Ministers and officials to pursue the interests of the United Kingdom with representatives of foreign governments. Therefore we are satisfied that there continues to be strong public arguments against disclosure.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/041
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to request the following information under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs).</i></p> <p><i>Please note that I am only interested in information which relates to the period 1 January 2010 to 1 April 2010.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that the reference to the Prince of Wales should include the Prince himself and or his private secretary and or his private office and or anyone acting specifically on his behalf.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that the reference to the Secretary of State should include the Secretary of State him/herself and or his/her private secretary and or his/her private office and or anyone acting specifically on his/her behalf.</i></p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>During the aforementioned period did the Prince of Wales exchange correspondence and or communications (including emails) with the Secretary of State about the environment and or issues which could be described as environmental under the Environmental Information Regulations.</i> 2. <i>If the answer is yes could you please provide copies of this correspondence and communications (including emails)? Please note that I am interested in receiving both sides of the correspondence and communications.</i>
Response	We have undertaken a search of our records and I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/042
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, please list/provide me with:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Details about the number of security passes to your department provided to those who over the same period were also employed by management consultancy firms since 2010</i> b) <i>Details of the reasons given for the awarding each pass</i> c) <i>Details of conversations or representations made to the Minister regarding this issue in relation to the Government's security strategy.</i>
Response	<p>In relation to point A, the department does not hold this information.</p> <p>In relation to point B, passes can be issued to contractors or consultants where there is necessary and appropriate business need to do so.</p> <p>In relation to point C, no conversations or representations have been made to ministers.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/043
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<p><i>On the BBC's Question Time show on March 27, Exiting the EU Secretary David Davis said "every department" has created contingency plans for exiting the EU without a trade deal.</i></p> <p><i>Could you please provide me with the following information:</i></p> <p><i>On what date did work commence on this contingency plan?</i></p> <p><i>On what date did work conclude on this contingency plan?</i></p>
Response	On what date did work commence on this contingency plan?

	<p>Following the referendum on 23 June 2016, the Treasury began the process of building a detailed understanding of how withdrawal from the EU will affect domestic policies, and began preparing and planning for all possible scenarios.</p> <p>Shortly after the referendum, the Prime Minister established the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU), to support her in negotiating the UK's exit from the EU, and to lead and coordinate cross-government work on the Exit. This has included providing ongoing guidance for other departments' work.</p> <p>On what date did work conclude on this contingency plan? This work is continuing across Whitehall. The work on contingency planning is both ongoing and constantly evolving.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/044
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<i>How much money has been spent by the department on Henley Research International Ltd, and for what services - including a list of positions they were asked to fill and whether they supplied the successful candidate - and whether any evaluation of their work has been done, and the outcome.</i>
Response	We do not hold any information within the scope of this request.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/22/045
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<i>What was the NIO's Annual Budget and the number of Civil Servants for the period between 2010 and 2016?</i>
Response	The information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it via the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications

FOI Request Reference	FOI/22/047
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<i>Under Freedom of Information legislation please provide me with all correspondence including emails, letters, memos, minutes of meeting, briefing documents, research or reviews from the last six months (or longest time possible to comply with time and cost exemptions) held by the Northern Ireland Office that refer to the issue of political party donations in Northern Ireland.</i>
Response	The law allows us to decline to answer FOI requests when we estimate it would cost us more than £600 (equivalent to 3.5 working days' worth of work, calculated at £25 per hour) to identify, locate, extract and then provide the information that has been asked for. To comply with the request and to enable us to identify such material, officials would be required to open and read a large amount of records individually. You should not infer from this that the Northern Ireland Office holds a large

amount of information relating to the subject you have asked about, only that we would need to search through a large amount of records in order to identify information relevant to your request.

You can find out more about Section 12(1) by reading the extract from the Act and some guidance points we consider when applying this exemption, attached at the end of this letter. You can also find more information by reading the full text of the Act, available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/12>.

Although we cannot answer your request at the moment, we might be able to answer a refined request within the cost limit. You might also wish to specify a shorter timeframe for the request. Please note that, as in this instance, a refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SECTION 12(1)

We have provided below additional information about Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. We have included some extracts from the legislation, as well as some of the guidance we use when applying it. We hope you find this information useful.

The legislation

Section 1: Right of Access to information held by public authorities

- a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
- b) If that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.

Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- 2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
- 3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
- 4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
 - a) by one person, or
 - b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

	<p>5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.</p> <p>The appropriate limit</p> <p>The 'appropriate limit', for the purposes of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act has been set at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £600 for central government and Parliament. • The hourly rate is set at £25 per person per hour. <p>The following activities may be taken into account when public authorities are estimating whether the appropriate limit has been exceeded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determining whether it holds the information requested • locating the information or documents containing the information • retrieving such information or documents • extracting the information from the document containing it.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/048
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request copies of all letters received by the Secretary of State from the individual Northern Irish political parties relating to their responses to his request for their Party consideration on disclosing donations.</i>
Response	<p>I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office holds the information you have requested, however it is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Act on the basis that it is intended for future publication. The likely timing of publication will be the point at which Ministers announce future policy on political donations and loans in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>You can find out more about Section 22 by reading the extract from the Act, attached at the end of this letter. You can also find more information by reading the full text of the Act, available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/22.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/049
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<p><i>This request concerns private sector contracts renewed or extended by your department without a competitive tender process.</i></p> <p><i>1) Please state the number of contracts in each of the following value bands:</i></p> <p><i>a) £1m-£5</i></p>

- b) £5m-£10m
- c) £10m-£20m
- d) £20m-£50m
- e) £50m-£100m
- f) £100m or more

That were due to expire in each of the following financial years

- i). 2012/13
- ii). 2013/14
- iii). 2014/15
- iv). 2015/16
- v). 2016/17

But were renewed without being put to competitive tender after expiring.

2) *Please state the number of contracts in each of the following value bands:*

- a) £1m-£5
- b) £5m-£10m
- c) £10m-£20m
- d) £20m-£50m
- e) £50m-£100m
- f) £100m or more

That were due to expire in each of the following financial years

- vi). 2012/13
- vii). 2013/14
- viii). 2014/15
- ix). 2015/16
- x). 2016/17

But were extended without being put to competitive tender after expiring.

3) *For contracts with a value of more than £100m*

- a) *Renewed*
- b) *Extended*

	<p>By your department in each of the following financial years, please provide the name of the private contractor, a description of the contract and the services to be provided, and the reason the contract was renewed without a competitive tender for each of the following financial years.</p> <p>i). 2012/13 ii). 2013/14 iii). 2014/15 iv). 2015/16 v). 2016/17</p>
Response	We do not hold any information within the scope of this request.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/050
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<p>Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information:</p> <p>The total amount spent by your department on phone calls to the speaking clock, and the total number of calls made to the speaking clock by your department, for the following years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 (thus far) • 2016 • 2015 • 2014 • 2013 • 2012
Response	<p>During the years 2012 to March 2016 the Northern Ireland Office received managed ICT services from IT Assist Confidential (ITAC), which is a service provided by Enterprise Shared Services, a body within the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland. The information requested is, therefore, not held by this Department. This information may be available from the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland who can be contacted at foi@finance-ni.gov.uk .</p> <p>Over the following period up to 2017 thus far the Northern Ireland Office received managed ICT services from IT Assist (ITA), which is a service provided by Enterprise Shared Services, a body within the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland. The information requested is, therefore, not held by this Department. This information may be available from the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland who can be contacted at foi@finance-ni.gov.uk .</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/053
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to know the total number employees within your department with the following job titles/areas of responsibility, please break this data down by job title.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Number of employees in Administrative roles e.g. Administrative Assistant</i> <i>Number of employees in Front house/reception roles</i> <p><i>Please also indicate the average salary (or salary bracket) for each job role.</i></p>
Response	<p>The Northern Ireland Office has eleven members of staff working at Administrative Officer and Administrative Assistant grades. The salary ranges are as follows:</p> <p>Administrative Officer: £19,055 - £23,250 Administrative Assistant: £15,594 - £17,000</p> <p>No-one is employed in a Front house/ reception role.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/054
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to make a request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i></p> <p><i>Please sent me:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>All information relating to 'fruitless spending' for the financial year 2016/2017 within the Northern Ireland office</i> <i>All information relating to 'losses and special payments' for the financial year 2016/17 within the Northern Ireland Office. Moreover, I would be grateful if the losses and special payments are broken down and categorised individually.</i>
Response	<p>I can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for, but it is exempt from disclosure under s22 of the Act because it is intended for future publication. All information relating to spending and losses and special payments will be disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17 for the Department to be published in July 2017.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/055
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<i>Under the FOI Act 2000 I'd like to request the following information:</i>

	<p><i>Has your government department experienced an email phishing attack in the last 12 months? How many email phishing attacks have you experienced in the last 12 months?</i></p>
Response	<p>In respect of your questions The Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1) (a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of both section 24(2) that relates to national security and section 31(3) that relates to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.</p> <p>Section 24 is a qualified exemption and so we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to confirm or deny whether we hold the information. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying whether the requested information is held.</p> <p>Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the government holds particular information. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department's IT systems. In this case we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information, which may have been disclosed in an unauthorised manner, is held.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/060
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<p><i>Under the FOIA 2000, please provide a copy of any and all recorded information held by the department about the work of the PSNI and Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas (NI-CO) with the Sultanate of Oman since they commenced work with the Omani authorities. If that would exceed the cost limit, please limit your search to the period 2014-2017.</i></p> <p><i>I expect your disclosure to include, but not be limited to, the visit of Oman's Inspector General Hassan Al Shereqi to Northern Ireland, which was reported around March 2015. I expect your search to cover any recorded information pertaining to this subject in the broadest possible sense e.g. emails, minutes, diary entries, papers, OSJA assessments, IPAB referrals etc.</i></p> <p><i>Please also respond to the following points:</i></p> <p><i>How much money has NI-CO received for its work with Oman and which fund did this money come from?</i> <i>How much money has the PSNI received for its work with Oman and which fund did this money come from?</i> <i>Has the scheme involved Omanis meeting representatives of Sinn Fein and/or the DUP? If so, please provide details.</i></p>

	<i>As required by the Information Commissioner, a search of backup servers should also be conducted.</i>
Response	We do not hold any information within the scope of your request; however the PSNI may be in a position to provide you with information. Their Freedom of Information team can be contacted at the following email address: foi@psni.pnn.police.uk

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/062
Month Issued	May 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to cyber-attacks on your organisation. To be clear, by "cyber-attack" I am referring to the unauthorised access or deliberate disruption of a computer system or a device owned and/or operated by your organisation. Types of cyber-attack could include, but are not limited to: ransomware, denial of service, phishing and spear phishing. By data, I refer to any information held on your computer systems or devices</i></p> <p><i>Please could you answer the following:-</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Does your organisation keep an incident log of cyber-attacks?</i> <i>2) How many cyber-attacks - attempted and successful - were recorded against your organisation's IT systems in the last three financial years (i.e. 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17)?</i> <i>3) Where cyber-attacks were successful, what kind and amount of data, if any, was lost or stolen? Was it confidential? For each case, please confirm:</i> <i>4) The type of attack (e.g. ransomware, denial of service etc.)</i> <i>5) What demand, for example a Bitcoin payment, was made to resolve the attack? Did your organisation comply?</i> <i>6) Whether the attack was reported to police or other responsible authority? To the best of your knowledge, was the attacker traced/convicted?</i>
Response	<p>In respect of your questions The Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1) (a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of both section 24(2) that relates to national security and section 31(3) that relates to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.</p> <p>Section 24 is a qualified exemption and so we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to confirm or deny whether we hold the information. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying whether the requested information is held.</p>

Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the government holds particular information. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department's IT systems. In this case we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information, which may have been disclosed in an unauthorised manner, is held.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/056																								
Month Issued	June 2017																								
Request	<p>1. <i>How many people does your department employ to defend against cyber-attacks (could you detail this for the past five years as below) please?</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Year (or fiscal year)</i></th> <th><i>Number of people employed to defend against cyber-attacks</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>2013 (or 2012/13)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2014 (or 2013/14)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2015 (or 2014/15)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2016 (or 2015/16)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2017 (or 2016/17)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. <i>How much money does your department spend on defending against cyber-attacks (could you detail this for the past five years as below) please?</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Year (or fiscal year)</i></th> <th><i>Amount spent on defending against cyber-attacks</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>2013 (or 2012/13)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2014 (or 2013/14)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2015 (or 2014/15)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2016 (or 2015/16)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2017 (or 2016/17)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Year (or fiscal year)</i>	<i>Number of people employed to defend against cyber-attacks</i>	<i>2013 (or 2012/13)</i>		<i>2014 (or 2013/14)</i>		<i>2015 (or 2014/15)</i>		<i>2016 (or 2015/16)</i>		<i>2017 (or 2016/17)</i>		<i>Year (or fiscal year)</i>	<i>Amount spent on defending against cyber-attacks</i>	<i>2013 (or 2012/13)</i>		<i>2014 (or 2013/14)</i>		<i>2015 (or 2014/15)</i>		<i>2016 (or 2015/16)</i>		<i>2017 (or 2016/17)</i>	
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Response	We are not obliged to provide information if its release would prejudice law and national security.																								

The information can be withheld under FOIA exemption s31 (1) (a) - crime prevention, on the grounds that this information will aid malicious parties to attack the IT systems concerned. Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test.

With regard to your request, we recognise there is a general public interest in openness and transparency in governments IT systems, which may lead to increased trust and engagement between the public and the government. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department's IT systems.

We have also decided to engage Section 24(2) - national security. Section 24 is a qualified exemption and so we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to release any information. Releasing any information would increase the cyber risk to the department. If an attack on the government infrastructure occurs this could prejudice any relationships that Northern Ireland has with the UK government.

In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information. We reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Section 31(1) (a) and Section 24 (2) of the Act at this time.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/059												
Month Issued	June 2017												
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), please could you provide answers to the following questions:</i></p> <p>1. <i>How many attempted cyber-attacks has your department successfully defended (could you detail this for the past five years as below) please?</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Year (or fiscal year)</i></th> <th><i>Number of successfully defended cyber-attacks</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>2013 (or 2012/13)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2014 (or 2013/14)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2015 (or 2014/15)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2016 (or 2015/16)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2017 (or 2016/17)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Year (or fiscal year)</i>	<i>Number of successfully defended cyber-attacks</i>	<i>2013 (or 2012/13)</i>		<i>2014 (or 2013/14)</i>		<i>2015 (or 2014/15)</i>		<i>2016 (or 2015/16)</i>		<i>2017 (or 2016/17)</i>	
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Response	<p>The Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of both section 24(2) that relates to national security and section 31(3) that relates to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.</p> <p>Section 24 is a qualified exemption and so we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to confirm or deny whether we hold the information. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying whether the requested information is held.</p> <p>Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the government holds particular information. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department's IT systems. In this case we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information, which may have been disclosed in an unauthorised manner, is held.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/061
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<i>Following the international Cyber Attack starting on Friday 12th of May 2017 how many computers within your department were affected by the attack?</i>
Response	<p>In respect of your questions The Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of both section 24(2) that relates to national security and sections 31(1)(a) and 31(3)(a) that relates to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.</p> <p>Section 24 is a qualified exemption and so we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to confirm or deny whether we hold the information. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying whether the requested information is held.</p> <p>Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the government holds particular information. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department's IT</p>

	systems. In this case we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information, which may have been disclosed in an unauthorised manner, is held.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/064
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<p><i>I am requesting copies of two reports compiled by John Percival Morton CMG OBE, also known as Jack Morton, hereafter MORTON. In 1973, MORTON produced a report, referred to as the 'Morton Report', which contained advice on the relationship between the RUC and the Army.</i></p> <p><i>In 1979, MORTON visited Sri Lanka and produced a report, referred to as the 'Morton Report', which contained advice on the reorganisation of Sri Lanka's security apparatus. Please provide a copy of both reports.</i></p> <p><i>To assist your search, it may be helpful to know that civil servants in the NIO made reference to the first Morton Report during discussions in 1976 and 1977 (according to NIO file refs CJ 4/3060, letter from Mr Bampton to Mr Bourn dated 30 March 1976, and letter from Northern Ireland Office to Ministry of Defence, 11 May 1976, and CJ 4/1785, 'Security forces' capability working group', 21 and 22 September 1977.)</i></p> <p><i>Further, in 1983, the FCO's Overseas Police Adviser visited Sri Lanka and urged the Sri Lankan Police to implement the recommendations of the second Morton Report (according to FCO file ref, FSC 382/1, memo titled Sri Lanka Police – Visit by Overseas Police Adviser to Colombo 7-11 March 1983, by Robert P Bryan, 17 March 1983).</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The NIO does not hold the information that you have requested.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/065
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<p><i>Under Freedom of Information legislation I am writing to request the following information:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• All correspondence, electronic or otherwise, between James Brokenshire, his officials and advisers, and Chief Constable of the PSNI George Hamilton.</i><i>• These correspondence to cover a period between Monday 22 May 2017 and Friday 26 May 2017.</i><i>• These correspondence to be limited to correspondence containing the terms 'critical' and/ or 'Manchester'.</i>

Response

I can confirm that this department holds information relating to your request. However, after careful consideration we have decided that the information is exempt from disclosure under sections 24(1) and 35 (1) (a) and (b) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The reasons for our decisions are set out below.

Section 24

Section 24(1) allows the department to withhold information for reasons of national security. It is a qualified exemption and as such we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information. I have outlined our public interest considerations below;

We realise that if we were to release this information, the public would have greater knowledge of the correspondence between the Secretary of State, his advisors and officials and the Chief Constable, in relation to the Manchester attack. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but this must be balanced against the harm disclosure could cause to the effectiveness of defence against terrorism.

We therefore reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under section 24(1) of the FOIA.

Section 35

Some of the information held by the department relates to the formulation or development of government policy (section 35 (1) (a) and (b) of the Act).

Section 35(1)(a) & (b) protect information relating to Information held if it relates to the formulation or development of government policy or Ministerial communications. The information sought in this case engages this exemption, relating as it does to both formulation of government policy and correspondence with the Secretary of State's private office post Manchester attack.

Section 35 is a qualified exemption and as such we have considered whether the balance would lie in favour of the public interest for us to provide you with the information. I have outlined our public interest considerations below:

There is a strong public interest in transparency and accountability to promote public understanding and trust in relation to the work of the government. There is also a public interest in seeing that ministers are provided with well informed and balanced advice to make effective decisions. I recognise that there is a public interest in understanding how Ministers formulate policy and make decisions including on important security matters.

	<p>However, effective policy development requires space to allow a proper consideration of all options, objectively, and away from external speculation, in order to protect the integrity of the policymaking process, and to prevent disclosures which would undermine the process and result in less robust, well considered or effective policies. Most importantly in this case, the Manchester attack necessitated a speedy response, meaning fast paced correspondence and decision making. It is important that Ministers be given a safe space to consider policy options in private and in an open and frank way.</p> <p>Given these reasons we reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Section 35(1)(a) & (b) of the Act at this time.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/066
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<i>I am interested to know what the salaries are for some of the management/ CEO's of charities operating in Northern Ireland.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>We do not hold any information within the scope of your request; however the Charity Commission NI who are responsible for this area of work may be in a position to provide you with information. They can be contacted at the following email address: http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/067
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to know the amount of money your department spent on the services of external law firms and barristers for the year ending March 31st 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Please exclude legal services provided by the Government Legal Department. However, please include legal services that the Government Legal Department has outsourced to a third party.</i></p> <p><i>You can approximate spending levels, i.e. if you are not able to provide the exact figures, you can give us your best estimate. Please note that the figure we have requested should exclude spending by your department on the GLD (Government Legal Department) and its predecessor the TSoL (Treasury Solicitor's Department).</i></p>
Response	I can confirm that the Department holds some of the information that you have requested. However, because the cost of complying with your request would exceed the limit set by the Freedom of Information Act, on this occasion I'm afraid I will not be taking your request further.

	<p>The law allows us to decline to answer requests under s12 of the FOIA when we estimate that it would cost us more than £600 to identify, locate, extract, and then provide the information that has been asked for. There are only certain activities that we can take into account when making this calculation, but you may be interested to know that the limit is equivalent to 3½ working days' worth of work, calculated at £25 per hour.</p> <p>The Department does not normally engage external legal advice directly. It is therefore not possible to supply this information at this time as in order to comply with this request the Department would need contact our government legal departments and request that they calculate the value of any external legal work undertaken on behalf of the Department.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/068
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to request the following information under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs).</i></p> <p><i>Please note that I am only interested in information which relates to the period 1 June 2015 to the present day. Please note that references to Prince William should include the Prince himself and or his private office and or anyone specifically acting on his behalf. Please note that the reference to Secretary of State should include the Secretary of State him/herself and or their private office.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. During the aforementioned period has Prince William exchanged correspondence and communications including emails with the Secretary of State which in any way relates to environmental issues as defined by the Environmental Information Regulations. (EIRs).</i> <i>2. If the answer is yes can you please provide copies of this contact and communication including emails and the notes and transcripts of any relevant telephone conversations.</i> <i>3. During the aforementioned period has Prince William met with the Secretary of State to discuss environmental issues as defined by the Environmental Information Regulations. If the answer is yes can you please provide the following details. Can you state the time, date and venue of the meeting. Can you provide a full list of those present. Can you outline the issues discussed at that meeting. Can you please provide copies of any written briefing notes issued to the Secretary of state and other departmental representatives who attended the meeting.</i> <i>4. Can you please provide details of and or copies of any relevant documents which have subsequently been destroyed.</i>
Response	We have undertaken a search of our records and I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/070
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<p><i>I have been wanting to send a freedom of information request relating to the Organisation's existing contracts relating to facilities management.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A. Lift Service and Maintenance</i> <i>B. Air Conditioning and Ventilation Servicing and Maintenance</i> <i>C. Cleaning and Janitorial</i> <i>D. Mechanical And Electrical Maintenance</i> <i>E. Property Maintenance And Day To Day Repairs</i> <p><i>In regards to the types of contracts I have displayed above can you please send the Organisation's primary contracts? Or can you please send me the contract that are above £1000. Also, so that I understand the information you have provided to me please state information if the Organisation doesn't have any contract I have stated within this request.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Contract Type – Please use the list I have provided above</i> <i>2. Existing Supplier – Please state the supplier for each contract</i> <i>3. Annual Spend- Please can you provide me with the spend for each individual supplier</i> <i>4. Contract Duration- please note if there are any extensions period available and if so what?</i> <i>5. Contract Start</i> <i>6. Contract Expiry</i> <i>7. Contract Review</i> <i>8. Contract Description- a small description of the type of services included within each contract.</i> <i>9. Number of sites covered for each contract e.g. the organisation may have a maintenance agreement with a supplier that covers several sites/buildings.</i> <i>10. Can you also send me the contact details of the person within the Organisation that is responsible for each one of these contract you have submitted.</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland Office is a tenant of the Department of Finance. As part of this arrangement the Landlord has sole responsibility for awarding and managing contracts in relation to property maintenance.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/071
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<i>I have some FOI questions for the Northern Island Office.</i>

	<p><i>Please find the questions I would like answered below.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Have there been investigations relating to expense fraud in your department in the last 24 months?</i> 2. <i>If so, how many?</i> 3. <i>How many of these investigations have found a member of staff at your department to be in breach of your rules relating to expenses?</i> 4. <i>Has anyone who has been found to be in breach of expense rules dismissed? If so, how many?</i> 5. <i>Has anyone who has been found to be in breach of expense rules prosecuted? If so, how many?</i> 6. <i>Do you have a clear set of rules in regards to expenses in place at your department?</i>
Response	In the last 24 months there have been no investigations relating to expense fraud. The Department utilises the Ministry of Justice travel and subsistence policy for permanently employed staff with seconded staff operating under their home department's policy.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/074
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<p><i>Please could you let me know the names and email addresses for your:</i></p> <p><i>Head of Research</i> <i>Head of Analysis</i> <i>Head of Intelligence</i> <i>Head of Performance</i></p> <p><i>If this/these exact job title is not in post at Northern Ireland Office then the closest person to the role who performs statistical or survey analysis would be helpful.</i></p>
Response	<p>The Northern Ireland Office does not currently carry out the functions covered by the descriptions above.</p> <p>Further information on the remit of the Department can be found here www.gov.uk/government/organisations/northern-ireland-office</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/079
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<i>Re-imaging Communities Programme in Northern Ireland</i>

	<i>I was wondering if it would be possible for you to send me some information about this programme for example about the finances.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The NIO is not involved in re-imaging projects; therefore we do not hold any information that would fall within the scope of your request. The Department of Justice who can be contacted at foi@justiceni.x.gsi.gov.uk or the Department for Communities who can be contacted at foi@communities-ni.gov.uk may be in a position to assist you with your enquiry.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/086
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<p><i>For the years 2012 - 2016 can you list for me any official Northern Ireland Executive engagements or meetings which were not minuted or had no official notes taken?</i></p> <p><i>If this exceeds the time or cost frame - can you reduce the search to that of any regarding First and Deputy First Ministers. If this still exceeds the time or cost frame please reduce the request to the years 2015-16 and 2016-17.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>As your request refers to any official Northern Ireland Executive engagements or meetings, you would need to contact The Executive Office rather than the Northern Ireland Office. The Executive Office may hold the information you have requested; their FOI Team can be contacted at foi@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/088
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) The number of permanent civil service management staff employed at the Northern Ireland Office at 31 March 2010, broken down by grade (i.e. SCS Bands 4-1, Grades 6 & 7, SEO, HEO and EO).</i> <i>2) The number of permanent civil service management staff employed at the Northern Ireland Office at 31 March 2016, broken down by grade (i.e. SCS Bands 4-1, Grades 6 & 7, SEO, HEO and EO).</i>

	3) <i>The number of permanent civil service management staff employed at the Northern Ireland Office at 31 March 2017, broken down by grade (i.e. SCS Bands 4-1, Grades 6 & 7, SEO, HEO and EO).</i>																																								
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The information you requested is set out in the table format you provided. Please note that the numbers for 2010 are taken from April 2010, after devolution of the Policing and Criminal Justice functions. The numbers for 2017 are from February, the closest date to March we have information for. All figures are a mix of staff directly employed by the NIO and staff working in the NIO on secondment from the Northern Ireland Civil Service.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Northern Ireland Office</th> <th>Number at April 2010 – Post devolution</th> <th>Number at 31/03/2016</th> <th>Number at February 2017</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SCS Band 4</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCS Band 3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCS Band 2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCS Band 1</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 6</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 7</td> <td>14</td> <td>21</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior Executive Officer</td> <td>10</td> <td>19</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Higher Executive Officer</td> <td>25</td> <td>33</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Executive Officer</td> <td>32</td> <td>26</td> <td>29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Northern Ireland Office	Number at April 2010 – Post devolution	Number at 31/03/2016	Number at February 2017	SCS Band 4	0	0	0	SCS Band 3	1	1	1	SCS Band 2	2	2	2	SCS Band 1	7	8	12	Grade 6	0	0	0	Grade 7	14	21	23	Senior Executive Officer	10	19	28	Higher Executive Officer	25	33	25	Executive Officer	32	26	29
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/090
Month Issued	June 2017
Request	<p><i>I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2004:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. What number of staff in your department are paid through umbrella companies?</i> <i>2. What number of staff in your department are hired through recruitment companies?</i> <i>3. What number of staff in your department are on temporary contracts?</i> <i>4. Which recruitment agencies does your department use?</i> <i>5. What number of staff in your department are paid through the following companies:</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Parasol Ltd?</i>• <i>Danbro Ltd?</i>• <i>Giant?</i> <p>6. <i>Which other companies are staff employed in your department paid through, and what is the number of staff per company?</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The responses to your questions are set out below in the order they were asked.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No member of staff in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) are paid through umbrella companies2. No current members of staff have been hired through recruitment companies.3. The NIO currently has five temporary members of staff4. The Government Procurement Framework provides details of the agencies that the NIO can use for recruiting temporary workers. Details can be found at the link below https://ccs-agreements.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/suppliers5. No members of NIO staff are paid through these companies.6. No members of NIO staff are paid through any other companies.