

QUARTER 4 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSES

Year	Month	FOI Reference	Topic
2017	Oct	FOI/17/128	Donation or donations documents
2017	Oct	FOI/17/130	Spending on IT equipment
2017	Oct	FOI/17/134	Departmental vehicles: replacement tyres
2017	Oct	FOI/17/135	Kaspersky Labs IT software
2017	Oct	FOI/17/138	Constitutional Research Council correspondence and documentation
2017	Oct	FOI/17/139	Community background of Belfast staff
2017	Oct	FOI/17/141	Staff survey results: bullying, harassment or discrimination data
2017	Oct	FOI/17/142	Spending on judicial reviews
2017	Oct	FOI/17/143	Subject access request statistics
2017	Oct	FOI/17/144	Studies on the impact of Brexit
2017	Oct	FOI/17/154	Missing Vietnamese unaccompanied asylum seeking children
2017	Nov	FOI/17/095	Ministerial travel expenses
2017	Nov	FOI/17/145	Archival file request: CJ 4/4258
2017	Nov	FOI/17/146	Donation or donations correspondence
2017	Nov	FOI/17/147	Staff dismissals and suspensions
2017	Nov	FOI/17/149	Despatch box movement costs
2017	Nov	FOI/17/150	Staff pay: 2016/17 pay bands
2017	Nov	FOI/17/151	Brexit preparations
2017	Nov	FOI/17/152	Secondments
2017	Nov	FOI/17/153	Good Friday Agreement: prisoner releases
2017	Nov	FOI/17/155	Spending on private sector legal services
2017	Nov	FOI/17/157	Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence
2017	Nov	FOI/17/158	Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence
2017	Nov	FOI/17/159	Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence
2017	Nov	FOI/17/160	Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence
2017	Nov	FOI/17/161	Sexual harassment allegations against staff

2017	Nov	FOI/17/162	Staff pay: London weighting
2017	Nov	FOI/17/163	Ministerial office holders 1998-1999
2017	Nov	FOI/17/164	Staff suspensions
2017	Nov	FOI/17/165	Sexual assault allegations made by staff
2017	Nov	FOI/17/166	Sexual harassment complaints against staff and ministers
2017	Nov	FOI/17/167	Sexual harassment complaints against staff and ministers
2017	Nov	FOI/17/168	Communications manager contact details
2017	Nov	FOI/17/169	Ministerial meeting with Justice for Northern Ireland Veterans
2017	Nov	FOI/17/170	Steele review: safety at HM Prison Maghaberry
2017	Nov	FOI/17/171	IT system activity subsequent to the 2016 Brexit vote
2017	Nov	FOI/17/172	Miscarriage of justice applications
2017	Nov	FOI/17/173	Sexual harassment, assault and discrimination incidents: injunctions and compensation
2017	Nov	FOI/17/183	Language translation methods in the Northern Ireland film industry
2017	Nov	FOI/17/185	Investability and mental health in Northern Ireland
2017	Dec	FOI/17/174	Data security incidents
2017	Dec	FOI/17/175	Fruitless payments over £30,000
2017	Dec	FOI/17/176	Public relations contracts
2017	Dec	FOI/17/177	Archival file request: CJ 4/5493
2017	Dec	FOI/17/179	Energy suppliers
2017	Dec	FOI/17/180	Energy supplier contracts
2017	Dec	FOI/17/181	Spending on advertising and communications
2017	Dec	FOI/17/182	Staff sick leave: mental health related illnesses
2017	Dec	FOI/17/184	IT operating system
2017	Dec	FOI/17/186	Cost of Duke of Cambridge visit
2017	Dec	FOI/17/187	Spending on disposable and reusable cups
2017	Dec	FOI/17/188	Spending on Christmas decorations
2017	Dec	FOI/17/189	Internet webpages accessed by staff
2017	Dec	FOI/17/190	Staff withdrawing from civil service pension schemes

2017	Dec	FOI/17/191	Information pertaining to the UK general election
2017	Dec	FOI/17/192	Interactions with Qubric Associates
2017	Dec	FOI/17/193	Spending on hotel bills
2017	Dec	FOI/17/196	Spending on consultancy firms
2017	Dec	FOI/17/197	Staff on zero-hour contracts
2017	Dec	FOI/17/199	Super Recognisers International

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/128
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<i>In relation to your response to my recent FOI request (FOI 17/115) I would like to refine my request further. Please provide me with a copy of all emails (including their attachments) where the phrase "donation" or "donations" appears in the title of the email record. I would like this to include all records from the 26th June 2017 until the 10th July 2017. If this is still too long to comply with exemptions please provide me with the same information for the 26th June 2017 until the 3rd July 2017.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). 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.</p> <p>A request for 'all emails and/or all records', even over a shortened period of time, can often lead to a response under Section (12)1 of the FOIA as any subject may have numerous officials involved. In this case, a very large number of emails held by staff across the Department had donation or donations in the title during both of the time periods you have identified. Hence, in order to comply with your request, a large number of officials would be required to locate, assess and extract a large number of records individually. This request would therefore again breach the disproportionate cost threshold set out in Section 12 (1) of the FOIA.</p> <p>We appreciate that this is a disappointing result and are sorry that on this occasion we have not been able to answer 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.</p> <p>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SECTION 12(1)</p>

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

- (1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
 - (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.

Section 12: Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 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.
- (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.

Guidance

The appropriate limit

The 'appropriate limit', for the purposes of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act has been set at:

- £600 for central government and Parliament.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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/17/130
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<p><i>Could I please request the following information from the Northern Ireland Office?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Spending on computers and laptops by your department, per calendar year since 1st January 2013 (separated by year)</i> <i>Number of computers and laptops purchased by your department, per calendar year since 1st January 2013 (separated by year)</i> <i>Number of computers and laptops disposed by your department, per calendar year since 1st January 2013 (separated by year)</i> <i>IT department spending per year (everything: hardware, software, labour costs etc.), per calendar year since 1st January 2013 (separated by year)</i> <i>Number of computers and laptops lost by your department since 1st January 2013</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The department has more than one IT system; when answering your questions we are able to provide information in relation to our core corporate IT system. The information is reported by financial year and this has been provided where relevant.</p> <p>In the case of other IT systems operated by the NIO, we are not obliged to provide information if its release would prejudice law and national security. The information can be withheld under FOIA exemptions 31 (1) (a) - crime prevention, on the grounds that this information will aid malicious parties to attack the IT system concerned. Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test.</p>

With regard to your request, we recognise there is a general public interest in openness and transparency in government's 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 criminal intent.

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 this information. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.

1. In respect of the NIO corporate IT system for point one, please find following the spend on computers and laptops during the following years:

Financial year 2013-2014	Nil*
Financial year 2014-2015	Nil*
Financial year 2015-2016	Nil*
Financial year 2016-2017	£194,547

During the years 2013 to 2016 the Northern Ireland Office received managed ICT services from IT Assist (ITA) or from IT Assist Confidential, both are services provided by Enterprise Shared Services, a body within the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland. During this time the department did not own any Computers or laptops on its corporate system.

The department does not hold the requested information for the financial year of 2017-2018.

2. In relation to point two, the number of computers and laptops purchased by the department are as follows:

Financial year 2013-2014	Nil*
Financial year 2014-2015	Nil*
Financial year 2015-2016	Nil*
Financial year 2016-2017	195

*During the years 2013 to 2016 the Northern Ireland Office received managed ICT services from IT Assist (ITA) or from IT Assist Confidential (ITAC), both services provided computers and laptops as part of their services. Both ITA and ITAC are

part of 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.

The department does not hold the requested information for the financial year of 2017- 2018.

3. In relation to point three, during the years 2013 to 2016 the Northern Ireland Office received managed ICT services from IT Assist (ITA) or from IT Assist Confidential (ITAC), which included the supply of laptops and computers. Therefore the department does not hold this information, however it may be available from the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland who can be contacted at info.csd@dfpni.gov.uk.

The department did not dispose of any computers or laptops in the calendar year of 2017.

4. In relation to point four the IT department spend per year is as follows:

Financial year 2013-2014	£345,400
Financial year 2014-2015	£325,209
Financial year 2015-2016	£523,190
Financial year 2016-2017	£230,008

5. The department reports these figures in the Annual Report and Accounts which is published annually a link to the most recent one is attached. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nio-annual-report-and-accounts-2016-17>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/134
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and in respect of the policy your organisation has in relation to replacement of vehicle tyres.</i></p> <p><i>This might be on fleets directly managed or fleets managed on behalf of the organisation by an external provider or relate to the guidance or instruction given to employees or contractors in the event of a personal vehicle being used for a work purpose. Specifically I am interested to learn:</i></p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What is the number of vehicles is owned by your organisation (vehicle fleets both directly managed by the organisation or by an external organisation)?</i> 2. <i>What are the types of vehicle owned by your organisation (e.g. car, small delivery van, larger delivery vehicle, 4x4, special purpose vehicle etc.)?</i> 3. <i>Is there a minimum tread depth at which tyres must be replaced? This might be at a tread depth greater than the 1.6mm legal minimum or it might be that drivers are reminded of the legal minimum.</i> 4. <i>If an instruction is not in place, is there advice or guidance given and if so, what is that guidance?</i> 5. <i>If the organisation has vehicles that provide an emergency response and/or have to contend with specific conditions, e.g. sometimes operate off-road, as well as vehicles involved in routine journeys, please provide details if there a variance between the instruction and/or advice given.</i> 6. <i>If some or all of the vehicles used for a work purpose are managed by an external provider, please detail whether the policy on tyre replacement is that of your organisation or something in place from that provider.</i> 7. <i>Please provide details of any related instructions and/or guidance related to tyres - for example (though not exhaustive) how regularly tyre checks (tread, wear, inflation, damage) should happen? whether winter tyres and summer tyres are used during the appropriate seasons? and so on.</i> 8. <i>Please provide details if tyres used on vehicles for a work purpose have to be from an identified list of manufacturers or might be recommended to be from an identified list of manufacturers or whether there is more general guidance, e.g. 'only premium tyres should be fitted' or 'budget tyres are not advised'. Please provide this information covering vehicles that might be directly managed or managed by an external provider or in the circumstance of a private vehicle being used for a work purpose - identifying any variance on the requirement or advice in every instance.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>Please see below answers to your questions: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Department does not own any vehicles outright. One car is leased. 2. The Department does not own any vehicles outright. One car is leased. 3. Tyres will be replaced when the legal minimum of 1.6mm is reached. 4. The Department's leased vehicle is maintained as part of the leasing arrangement, no separate instructions are issued. 5. Not applicable to this Department. 6. Own organisation policy applies however the provider will supply tyres during routine maintenance when the legal limit has been reached. 7. Tyres are checked daily for condition, tread depth and pressure. There is no seasonal tyre policy. 8. Premium brand tyres are used for the Department's leased vehicle. Privately used vehicles are the responsibility of the owner/driver.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/135
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i></p> <p><i>Please notify me:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>whether your department uses software or IT services from Kaspersky Labs, and on how many devices, if so.</i> • <i>If the department does not use software or IT services from Kaspersky Labs, whether it has previously done so since January 1 2000.</i>
Response	<p>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 info.csd@dfpni.gov.uk</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/138
Month Issued	October 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> <p><i>I would like to be provided with:</i></p> <p><i>1) Copies of any and all correspondence, internal or external, or documentation that mentions, concerns or refers to the "Constitutional Research Council". Please limit your search for relevant material to May 2016 to the present.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>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. In this instance, following a search of our Electronic Document and Records Management System, I can confirm that the NIO does not hold on this system any correspondence, internal or external, or documentation that mentions, concerns or refers to the "Constitutional Research Council" during the time period you have identified. In order to fully comply with your request, all officials across the NIO would also be required to search their email account in order to locate, assess and extract any relevant emails individually.</p>

A request for 'any and all correspondence' even over a short period of time, can often lead to a response under Section (12)1 of the FOIA as any subject may have numerous officials involved. In this case, there were a range of Press Reports and other commentary which would have been circulated to all staff across the Department during the time period you have identified. Hence, this part of your request would breach the disproportionate cost threshold set out in Section 12 (1) of the FOIA. You should not infer from this that the Northern Ireland Office holds a large amount of email information relating to the subject you have asked about, only that all officials would need to search through a large amount of records in order to find out whether they hold any information relevant to your request and then assess and extract any relevant emails individually. 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>.

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

- (1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
 - (c) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
 - (d) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.

Section 12: Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 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—
- (c) by one person, or
 - (d) 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.
- (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.

Guidance

The appropriate limit

The 'appropriate limit', for the purposes of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act has been set at:

- £600 for central government and Parliament.
- The hourly rate is set at £25 per person per hour.

The following activities may be taken into account when public authorities are estimating whether the appropriate limit has been exceeded.

- 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.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/139
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<p><i>Please would you let me know the community background (Catholic, Protestant, Other) of all staff currently engaged by the NIO in its Belfast office. This includes both permanent and seconded staff. If available, please indicate the community background of applicants to NIO job vacancies for the past four calendar years (i.e. 2013-2017 and the community background of those appointed. If it would cost too much to provide this information please provide for the period 01/07/16-01/07/17.</i></p> <p><i>Also, please would you list all vacancies that arose in the NIO between 01/11/16 to 10/07/17, by grade. I'd be grateful if you would provide the job descriptions for each post, the number of applicants and whether the successful applicant was a permanent member of the NIO staff or a secondee.</i></p>

Response

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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 whether we hold any 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 subjects you have asked about, only that we would need to search through a large amount of records in order to find out whether we hold any 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 further refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider for example specifying:

1. The community background of HCS staff and the community background of HCS applicants to NIO job vacancies for a calendar year;
2. A particular job title, grade or range of grades or a shorter timeframe for the request.

Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SECTION 12(1)

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

- (1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
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- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 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.
- (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.

Guidance

The appropriate limit

The 'appropriate limit', for the purposes of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act has been set at:

- £600 for central government and Parliament.
- The hourly rate is set at £25 per person per hour.

The following activities may be taken into account when public authorities are estimating whether the appropriate limit has been exceeded.

- determining whether it holds the information requested
- locating the information or documents containing the information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retrieving such information or documents • extracting the information from the document containing it.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/141
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<p><i>Please would you let me know the results of the NIO staff survey section dealing with bullying, harassment or discrimination in each of the last four most recent staff surveys.</i></p> <p><i>For each of the last four surveys how many staff who completed the surveys stated that they had experienced bullying, harassment and/or discrimination? Please would you state what % of survey respondees stated they experienced bullying, harassment and/or discrimination?</i></p> <p><i>If possible could you indicate whether, according to survey respondees, the source of bullying, harassment and/or discrimination was (A) their manager; (B) another manager; (C) other colleagues.</i></p> <p><i>In the case of discrimination, please would you break this information down by each type of discrimination reported (e.g. age, disability, religious or political beliefs etc)</i></p> <p><i>Finally, if possible please would you break all of the above information by each of the NIO groups, (e.g. Legacy, Engagement, Economy etc)?</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Annual Civil Service People Survey results for the Northern Ireland Office in relation to bullying, harassment and/or discrimination for the last four surveys (2013-16) are enclosed. It is not possible to provide any further breakdown of the information due to the low level of responses to the questions. As stated on the survey results, counts of fewer than 10 responses are suppressed and replaced with a dash. This is to ensure absolute confidentiality and remove the possibility of individuals being identified. For these reasons a further breakdown of results at team level is not provided.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/142
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<p><i>How much has the department spent on judicial reviews over the last 5 years?</i></p> <p><i>Broken down by financial year, and if the case is in excess of £100k give specific details of the title of the case.</i></p>

Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)</p> <p>I can confirm that while the Department holds some of the information that you have requested it is not categorised in a way that it can be readily collated. 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> <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>If you wish to make a refined request we would be able to provide total legal costs for each financial year however the information is not categorised in such a way as to provide more detailed information.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/143
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<p><i>Individuals have a right, commonly referred to as a subject access request (SAR), created by section 7 of the Data Protection Act. I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding your processing of subject access requests:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. How many subject access requests did you receive the identifying paperwork for and process in 2014?</i> <i>2. How many subject access requests did you receive the identifying paperwork for and process in 2015?</i> <i>3. How many subject access requests did you receive the identifying paperwork for and process in 2016?</i> <i>4. How many subject access requests you rejected in 2014?</i> <i>5. How many subject access requests you rejected in 2015?</i> <i>6. How many subject access requests you rejected in 2016?</i> <i>7. What was the average cost for you to process a subject access request in 2014?</i> <i>8. What was the average cost for you to process a subject access request in 2015?</i> <i>9. What was the average cost for you to process a subject access request in 2016?</i> <i>10. How much do you charge an individual to process a subject access request?</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 8 SAR's were received in 2014 2. 6 SAR's were received in 2015 3. 1 SAR's were received in 2016 4. 0 SAR's were rejected in 2014 5. 0 SAR's were rejected in 2015 6. 0 SAR's were rejected in 2016 7. No information held 8. No information held 9. No information held 10. A fee of £10 is charged by the NIO.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/144
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<p><i>Roles of Government Departments Involved in the Production of Studies on the Impact of Brexit</i></p> <p><i>I refer to my FoI request to the DExEU:</i> https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/studies_on_the_impact_of_brexit#outgoing-681506</p> <p><i>And their response:</i> https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/studies_on_the_impact_of_brexit#incoming-1043508</p> <p><i>In the response to Item 5a, DExEU says: "We can confirm that DExEU does not hold this information. This exercise relied on expertise and involvement from across Government, and we are as such unable to ascertain the effort in days that went into producing these studies."</i></p> <p><i>I now have the following questions of your department. I would be grateful if you would answer these questions on behalf of your department and those government agencies reporting through your department. If you are unable to report on behalf of your agencies, please let me know and I will make further FoI requests directly to those agencies.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Did your department (or associated agencies) have any role in the production of any of the studies referred to in the above referenced FoI request and response from DExEU?</i> 2. <i>If your department or your agencies did have a role, what was that role?</i>

	<p>3. <i>If your agencies had a role, please specify which agencies were involved?</i></p> <p>4. <i>If you or your agencies did have a role, what was the total amount of effort (in person days) expended by civil servants or department/agency-supervised government contractors on all of the studies to which you (or your agencies) contributed?</i></p> <p>5. <i>If you or your agencies did have a role, was any of the work subcontracted to external service providers under fixed-price or time/materials terms? If so, please provide details of these contracts including the supplier, the value and the contracting route?</i></p> <p>6. <i>Please identify the studies to which you or your agencies contributed?</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In response to your request,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No 2. No information held 3. No information held 4. No information held 5. No information held

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/154
Month Issued	October 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I would like to know how many Looked After Vietnamese children (if possible, specifically Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children) went missing a) permanently, b) temporarily, each month for 2016 and 2017 to date?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request; however the Home Office may be able to assist with your enquiry. Their FOI team can be contacted at the following address foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/095
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I am submitting a Freedom of Information request with regards to ministerial visits in Northern Ireland. I am requesting the following information:</i></p>

	<p>1. <i>The total travel expenses for the Secretary of State during April-June 2017. If that exceeds the cost limit, April-May 2017 would be fine also. (broken down by mode of transport).</i></p>
Response	<p>Thank you for your email requesting a breakdown of travel costs for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the period April-June 2017.</p> <p>Regular travel between London and Belfast is essential if the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is to carry out his responsibilities within Northern Ireland while fulfilling his obligations as a Cabinet Minister and to the House of Commons. At times, this may result in multiple journeys being undertaken in a week, often at short notice. This is particularly the case at a time when intensive efforts are being made to restore devolved government at Stormont.</p> <p>It is the NIO's policy that the Secretary of State uses scheduled commercial flights, other than in exceptional circumstances, for all Government related duties which are procured through an approved framework contract using the cheapest ticket available at the time of booking. In 2010 the Government changed the policy of previous administrations of routinely chartering private aircraft for travel between London and Belfast. This has saved the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of pounds.</p> <p>Based on records held by the Northern Ireland Office, the aggregate cost of flights used by the Secretary of State during the period April - June 2017 was £40,191.20. This figure is based on invoices received to date. The NIO does not hold other information relating to the Secretary of State's transport.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/145
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I would please like to request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act either the release to the National Archives or a paper/electronic copy of the file CJ 4/4258. The file is described as containing minutes of meetings and correspondence between the RUC and the British army between 1969 and 1972. It is close to 45 years since the file was closed and many other sensitive files from this period, notably on intelligence matters, have been released.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>I can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for, but in this case we will not be providing it to you as it is exempt from disclosure.</p>

Some of the information you have requested could be exempt under section 23(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, which relates to the bodies dealing with security matters, although it is also possible that the information relates to none of the bodies dealing with security matters.

Sections 23(1) and 24(1) are being cited in the alternative as it is not appropriate, in the circumstances of the case, to say which of the two exemptions is actually engaged so as not to undermine national security or reveal the extent of any involvement, or not, of the bodies dealing with security matters. Section 23 is an absolute exemption and the Northern Ireland Office is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

Any information that is not exempt from disclosure under section 23(1) could be exempt under section 24(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, which exempts information from disclosure if its exemption is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security. For the reasons given above under section 23, we cannot say which of the two exemptions is actually engaged, and to the extent to which section 24(1) is engaged we are not obliged to give any further explanation by virtue of section 17(4) because to do so would involve the disclosure of information which would itself be exempt. Section 24 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours releasing or withholding this information. There is a general public interest in disclosure of information and I recognise that openness in government may increase public trust in and engagement with the government. I have weighed these public interests against a very strong public interest in safeguarding national security. It is important that this sensitive information is protected, as disclosure of information in this case, if held, would damage national security. Taking into account all the circumstances of this case I have determined that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information.

You can find out more about Sections 23 and 24 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/23>

EXPLANATION OF FOIA - SECTION 23 – INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY, OR RELATING TO, BODIES DEALING WITH SECURITY MATTERS

We have provided below additional information about Section 23 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

- (1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
- (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.

Section 23: Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters.

- (1) Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3).
- (2) A certificate signed by a Minister of the Crown certifying that the information to which it applies was directly or indirectly supplied by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3) shall, subject to section 60, be conclusive evidence of that fact.
- (3) The bodies referred to in subsections (1) and (2) are—
- (a) the Security Service,
 - (b) the Secret Intelligence Service,
 - (c) the Government Communications Headquarters,
 - (d) the special forces,
 - (e) the Tribunal established under section 65 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000,
 - (f) the Tribunal established under section 7 of the Interception of Communications Act 1985,
 - (g) the Tribunal established under section 5 of the Security Service Act 1989,
 - (h) the Tribunal established under section 9 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994,
 - (i) the Security Vetting Appeals Panel,
 - (j) the Security Commission,
 - (k) the National Criminal Intelligence Service,
 - (l) the Service Authority for the National Criminal Intelligence Service.
 - (m) the Serious Organised Crime Agency.
- (4) In subsection (3)(c) “the Government Communications Headquarters” includes any unit or part of a unit of the armed forces of the Crown which is for the time being required by the Secretary of State to assist the Government Communications Headquarters in carrying out its functions.
- (5) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3).

Guidance

The Security and Intelligence Agencies are not 'public authorities' for the purposes of the Act, therefore they are not under any duty themselves to disclose information under the Freedom of Information Act. It is only information supplied by them to public authorities, or information that relates to them and is held by public authorities, which needs to be, and is, addressed by section 23.

The section 23 exemption applies to information received from or related to the bodies listed at section 23(3) of the Freedom of Information Act. This includes the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service, Government Communications Headquarters and the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

The fact that a public authority does not hold information supplied by one of the Security Bodies can itself be information relating to those bodies. If information falls within the exemption in section 23, it will very often be important to consider whether it is necessary to rely on the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny whether the information is held. A non-committal response can be useful as it will not disclose information as to whether a Security and Intelligence Agency is or is not involved in a certain area of work.

EXPLANATION OF FOIA - SECTION 24 – NATIONAL SECURITY

We have provided below additional information about Section 24 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

- (1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
- (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.

Section 24: National security.

- (1) Information which does not fall within section 23(1) is exempt information if exemption from section 1(1)(b) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

- (2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, exemption from section 1(1)(a) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.
- (3) A certificate signed by a Minister of the Crown certifying that exemption from section 1(1)(b), or from section 1(1)(a) and (b), is, or at any time was, required for the purpose of safeguarding national security shall, subject to section 60, be conclusive evidence of that fact.
- (4) A certificate under subsection (3) may identify the information to which it applies by means of a general description and may be expressed to have prospective effect.

Guidance

The section 24 exemption applies to information that must not to be disclosed in order to safeguard national security.

The test to be applied when considering whether to claim a section 24 exemption is not whether the information relates to national security but whether the exemption is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security. That is, to claim the exemption it must be possible to identify an undesirable effect on national security, or the risk of such an undesirable effect, that would occur if the information were released.

When considering whether non-disclosure of a particular piece of information is required in order to safeguard national security, it is important to consider whether its release, could, if put together with other available information, cause damage ('the mosaic effect'). In justifying such an approach, decision-makers must be clear about what specific harmful effects are reasonably to be expected.

Taken together, the case law and the statements about national security form the basis for identifying the kind of information that falls into this category. For example that:

- The security of the nation includes its well-being and the protection of its defence and foreign policy interests, as well as its survival.
- The nation does not refer only to the territory of the UK, but includes its citizens, wherever they may be, or its assets wherever they may be, as well as the UK's system of government.
- There are a number of matters which UK law expressly recognises as constituting potential threats to, or otherwise being relevant to, the safety or well-being of the nation, including terrorism, espionage, subversion, the pursuit of the government's defence and foreign policies, and the economic well-being of the United Kingdom. But these matters are not exhaustive: the government would regard a wide range of other matters as being capable of constituting a threat to the safety or well-being of the nation. Examples include the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the protection of the Critical National Infrastructure, such as the water supply or national grid, from actions intended to cause

	catastrophic damage. However, these examples are not exhaustive and each piece of information should be considered individually
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/146
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>Following your latest response I would like to refine my request further and ask the NIO to search email records for one specific day only.</i></p> <p><i>Please provide me with a copy of all emails (including their attachments) held by NIO that were sent or received on 3rd July 2017 where the phrase "donation" or "donations" appears in the title of the email record.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). 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.</p> <p>In order to comply with your request, all officials across the NIO would be required to search for emails sent or received on 3rd July 2017 where the word "donation" or "donations" appears in the title. Every email highlighted by these searches would then have to be opened and read individually in order to assess and, if relevant, extract disclosable content. A request for 'all emails' is often likely to lead to a response under Section (12)1 of the FOIA as any subject may have numerous officials involved and there are media reports, Parliamentary Questions and other commentary circulated to all officials on a daily basis which would need to be assessed and extracted.</p> <p>This was a busy period in the NIO on the subject of donations during which the Secretary of State announced his intention to bring forward legislation to provide for the future publication of all donations and loans received on or after 1 July 2017. Hence, staff across the NIO are likely to have emails which were sent or received on 3 July 2017 where the word "donation" or "donations" appears in the title of the email record. We have sampled staff and the results indicate that a request, even to a targeted group of staff, would exceed the cost limit. Also, with search facilities as powerful as they now are, searches frequently give a very large number of results, many of which are false positives but are still required to be assessed.</p> <p>You may wish to submit a further refined request however in this case we consider that any repeat of the question will still not fall within the FOIA cost limit leading to a further response under Section 12(1). 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.</p>

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

- (1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
 - (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.

Section 12: Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 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.
- (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.

Guidance

The appropriate limit

	<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/17/147
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act. This request concerns the number of civil servants who have been suspended or fired due to criminal prosecutions and convictions.</i></p> <p>1)</p> <p><i>(a) Please state the number of civil servants working in your department that were fired for being convicted of a criminal offence/s</i></p> <p><i>(b) Please provide a breakdown of the offences for which these civil servants were convicted</i></p> <p><i>Please provide information for each of the last three financial years and the current financial year to 01/10/17.</i></p> <p>2)</p> <p><i>(a) Please state the number of civil servants currently suspended with pay awaiting the outcome of a criminal trial.</i></p> <p><i>(b) Please provide a breakdown of the offences for which these civil servants are awaiting trial.</i></p> <p><i>Please provide the information for each of the last three financial years and the current financial year to 01/10/17</i></p> <p>3)</p> <p><i>(a) Please state the number of civil servants currently suspended without pay awaiting the outcome of a criminal trial.</i></p> <p><i>(b) Please provide a breakdown of the offences for which these civil servants are awaiting trial.</i></p> <p><i>Please provide information for each of the last three financial years and the current financial year to 01/10/17.</i></p>
Response	<p>In response to all your queries above I can confirm that no civil servants from this department were suspended, either with or without pay, or fired due to criminal prosecutions or convictions during the last three years and to date.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/149
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, could you provide details of the following:</i></p> <p><i>Regarding so-called "despatch box movements" of ministerial papers/red boxes via a Departmental Pool Car (DPC) provided by the Government Car Service (GCS), for each financial year since it was introduced in April 2012:</i></p> <p><i>a) What has been the total cost?</i> <i>b) How many journeys were taken?</i> <i>c) How many of these trips were "despatch box movements" taking ministerial red boxes?</i> <i>d) What was the cost for "despatch box movements"?</i> <i>e) How many of these trips or "despatch box movements" carried just a single set of papers/one red box?</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Department does not hold this information in the format requested. The Department for Transport published figures for Government Car Usage, including for Northern Ireland Office Ministers from 2011 to 2015, and can be found here:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-car-service-ministerial-usage-data-2011-to-2015.</p> <p>The latest figures from the Department of Transport in a written Ministerial Statement of February 2017 detailed the total spend per Department for the 2015/2016 financial year, and can be accessed here:</p> <p>https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-02-09/HCWS478/</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/150
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>Please provide the following information under normal line of business.</i></p> <p><i>The 2016/17 rates of pay including scale points for the following grades within the NIO</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Administrative Officer</i> <i>• Executive Officer</i>

- Higher Executive Officer
- Senior Executive Officer

Response

(1) The information provided relates only to Home Civil Servants employed by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and excludes staff seconded to the NIO from the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) who remain on NICS terms and conditions, including pay.

The Northern Ireland Office aligns with the terms and conditions of the Ministry of Justice and the pay scales are detailed below:

Please note that equivalent pay bands are as follows:

- Band B = Senior Executive Officer
- Band C = Higher Executive Officer
- Band D = Executive Officer
- Band E = Administrative Officer

Summary of MoJ pay ranges from 1 August 2016

Open pay ranges for Bands B – E

Pay band	Pay Range	Area	Band Min	Band Max
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
	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	25,257	29,000
		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

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

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/151
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, please could you answer the following inter-related questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. What preparations has the department made for no Article 50 deal to be reached with the EU on the conclusion of the two year process, leaving the UK to exit the European Union without one?</i><i>2. Please share any details about the preparations that you can?</i><i>3. When did the department's 'no deal' preparations commence?</i><i>4. How much has the department spent on 'no deal' preparations to the date of receipt of this FoI?</i><i>5. When has it been estimated that the department's preparations will be complete?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In response to your request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">The role of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) is to ensure the smooth working of the devolution settlement in Northern Ireland. It represents Northern Ireland interests within the UK Government and represents the UK government interests and policy in Northern Ireland. Accordingly, responsibility for relevant issues including border, customs and immigration is held by other Whitehall Government Departments and the Northern Ireland Executive rather than by NIO. Therefore, the NIO has contributed to the Government's preparations, as is prudent for such a significant issue, but does not hold a plan of its own.This is the same question as question 1.Not held.Not held.Not held.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/152
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>Could you please tell me:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. The number of full time equivalent employees you have</i>

	<p>2. <i>The number of full time equivalent employees who were internal secondees (i.e. from another government/public sector body)</i></p> <p>a) <i>The employers of those secondees, and numbers (e.g. 4 FTE secondees from London Greater London Authority)</i></p> <p>3. <i>The number of full time equivalent employees who were external secondees</i></p> <p>a) <i>The employers of those secondees (e.g. 4 FTE secondees from Deloitte)</i></p> <p><i>For the purposes of this request, please provide figures as of 1st October (i.e. number of FTE employees on 1st October etc.) Also, please just consider direct employees of your department (not including sub-agencies or authorities).</i></p> <p><i>Also, if you are unable to provide employer details for external employee (for data protection or other reasons), I would appreciate if you could tell me what industry these employees have come from.</i></p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>1. 128.91</p> <p>2. 29</p> <p>a) 26 staff are seconded from the Northern Ireland Civil Service. Other information is being withheld under s40(2) due to the small numbers involved.</p> <p>We are not obliged, under section 40(2) of the Act, to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). In this instance we believe that the release of this information would contravene the first data protection principle and therefore section 40 (2) is engaged. The terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.</p> <p>Further to this, we can neither confirm nor deny whether any additional information is held that would meet the terms of your request, in reliance on the exemption in section 23(5) (Information supplied by or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters) of the FOIA. Section 23 is an absolute exemption and therefore we are not required to carry out a public interest test.</p> <p>3. None</p>

<p>FOI Request Reference</p>	<p>FOI/17/153</p>
<p>Month Issued</p>	<p>November 2017</p>
<p>Request</p>	<p><i>We ask that you please provide us under the Freedom of Information Act, the statistics on how many people in Northern Ireland were released under the Good Friday Agreement and subsequently have had their licence revoked.</i></p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p>

	482 people were released under the terms of the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998 of which 13 have had their licences revoked.
FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/155
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <p><i>Can the department tell me:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How many lawyers (headcount and/or full-time equivalent) from private sector companies have been contracted, employed or otherwise engaged by the department to draft, research or help to draft legislation (primary and secondary) in preparation for the UK's withdrawal from the EU.</i> <p><i>If it is not possible to determine the nature of the work for which individuals or companies have been contracted, can the department tell me:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How many lawyers from private sector companies have been contracted, employed or otherwise engaged by the department to draft, research or help to draft legislation (primary and secondary) for any reason since 23 June 2016.</i> • <i>If that information is available, can the department also provide month-by-month time series data (i.e. how many individuals or FTEs were employed by the department on that basis in each month since April 2015).</i> <p><i>Can the department also provide an estimate or documentation that estimates:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The number of bill-able hours' work that private sector legal firms have provided for the department each month since April 2015). Where possible, can the department please specify if this work relates to the UK's withdrawal from the EU.</i> • <i>The total financial cost to the department of paying private sector lawyers or legal firms to assist with drafting legislation or research, broken down by month, since April 2015. Where possible, can the department please specify if this work relates to the UK's withdrawal from the EU.</i> <p><i>Finally, can the department please provide an estimate how many additional department-employed lawyers or members of the government legal service would be needed for the department not to require the services of external private sector lawyers or legal firms.</i></p>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

	The Department uses the Government Legal Department and the Crown Solicitor's Office in Northern Ireland to provide legal advice and guidance. The Department has not employed lawyers from private sector companies to draft, research or help to draft legislation in preparation for the UK's withdrawal from the EU.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/157
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Northern Ireland Office.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. How many meetings have taken place between the NI Secretary of state/ officials / NIO and the Foreign office / Minister or officials between May 1997 and October 2002 discussing Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence. (what was the agenda for these meetings) Please disclose minutes.</i> <i>2. How many correspondences have been sent between the NI Secretary of state, officials or NIO and the Foreign office / Minister or officials between May 1997 and October 2002 discussing Libyan compensation for Victims of IRA violence. Please disclose copies.</i> <i>3. Please disclose copies of meeting minutes / correspondence between the NI Secretary of State, Officials or Northern Ireland Office and HM Government Ministers / officials discussing Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence between May 1997 and December 2002.</i> <i>4. Please NIO disclose any meeting minutes / correspondence in which Government policy on Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence was discussed between May 1997 and October 2002</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To comply with the request and to enable us to identify whether we hold any such material, officials would be required to open and read a large amount of records individually.</p> <p>You should not infer from this that the Northern Ireland Office holds a large amount of information relating to the subjects you have asked about, only that we would need to search through a large amount of records in order to find out whether we hold any information relevant to your request.</p>

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 further refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider a shorter timeframe for the request or perhaps provide a series of key phrases for us to search. Please note that, as in this instance, a further 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

- (1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
- (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.

Section 12: Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 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,

	<p>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> <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>Guidance</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/17/158
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Northern Ireland Office.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. How many meetings have taken place between the NI Secretary of state/ officials / NIO and the Foreign office / Minister or officials between October 2002 and October 2007 discussing Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence. (what was the agenda for these meetings) Please disclose minutes.</i> <i>2. How many correspondences have been sent between the NI Secretary of state, officials or NIO and the Foreign office / Minister or officials between October 2002 and October 2007 discussing Libyan compensation for Victims of IRA violence. Please disclose copies.</i> <i>3. Please disclose copies of meeting minutes / correspondence between the NI Secretary of State, Officials or Northern Ireland Office and HM Government Ministers / officials discussing Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence between October 2002 and October 2007.</i>

	<p>4. <i>Please NIO disclose any meeting minutes / correspondence in which Government policy on Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence was discussed between October 2002 and October 2007</i></p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To comply with the request and to enable us to identify whether we hold any such material, officials would be required to open and read a large amount of records individually.</p> <p>You should not infer from this that the Northern Ireland Office holds a large amount of information relating to the subjects you have asked about, only that we would need to search through a large amount of records in order to find out whether we hold any information relevant to your request.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Although we cannot answer your request at the moment, we might be able to answer a further refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider a shorter timeframe for the request or perhaps provide a series of key phrases for us to search. Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SECTION 12(1)</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The legislation</p> <p><u>Section 1: Right of Access to information held by public authorities</u></p> <p>(1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—</p>

- (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.

Section 12: Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
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- (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.
- (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.

Guidance

The appropriate limit

The 'appropriate limit', for the purposes of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act has been set at:

- £600 for central government and Parliament.
- The hourly rate is set at £25 per person per hour.

The following activities may be taken into account when public authorities are estimating whether the appropriate limit has been exceeded.

- 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.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/159
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Northern Ireland Office.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. How many meetings have taken place between the NI Secretary of state/ officials / NIO and the Foreign office / Minister or officials between October 2007 and October 2012 discussing Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence. (what was the agenda for these meetings) Please disclose minutes.</i> <i>2. How many correspondences have been sent between the NI Secretary of state, officials or NIO and the Foreign office / Minister or officials between October 2007 and October 2012 discussing Libyan compensation for Victims of IRA violence. Please disclose copies.</i> <i>3. Please disclose copies of meeting minutes / correspondence between the NI Secretary of State, Officials or Northern Ireland Office and HM Government Ministers / officials discussing Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence between October 2007 and October 2012.</i> <i>4. Please NIO disclose any meeting minutes / correspondence in which Government policy on Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence was discussed between October 2007 and October 2012</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To comply with the request and to enable us to identify whether we hold any such material, officials would be required to open and read a large amount of records individually.</p> <p>You should not infer from this that the Northern Ireland Office holds a large amount of information relating to the subjects you have asked about, only that we would need to search through a large amount of records in order to find out whether we hold any information relevant to your request.</p> <p>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.</p>

Although we cannot answer your request at the moment, we might be able to answer a further refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider a shorter timeframe for the request or perhaps provide a series of key phrases for us to search. Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.

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 - (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.
- (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>Guidance</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/17/160
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Northern Ireland Office.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. How many meetings have taken place between the NI Secretary of state/ officials / NIO and the Foreign office / Minister or officials between October 2012 and October 2017 discussing Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence. (what was the agenda for these meetings) Please disclose minutes.</i> <i>2. How many correspondences have been sent between the NI Secretary of state, officials or NIO and the Foreign office / Minister or officials between October 2012 and October 2017 discussing Libyan compensation for Victims of IRA violence. Please disclose copies.</i> <i>3. Please disclose copies of meeting minutes / correspondence between the NI Secretary of State, Officials or Northern Ireland Office and HM Government Ministers / officials discussing Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence between October 2012 and October 2017.</i> <i>4. Please NIO disclose any meeting minutes / correspondence in which Government policy on Libyan compensation for victims of IRA violence was discussed between October 2012 and October 2017</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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 whether we hold any 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 subjects you have asked about, only that we would need to search through a large amount of records in order to find out whether we hold any 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 further refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider a shorter timeframe for the request or perhaps provide a series of key phrases for us to search. Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit. I am sorry that on this occasion I have not been able to answer your request.

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

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- (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—
 - 1. by one person, or
 - 2. 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.
- (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.

Guidance

The appropriate limit

The 'appropriate limit', for the purposes of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act has been set at:

- £600 for central government and Parliament.
- The hourly rate is set at £25 per person per hour.

The following activities may be taken into account when public authorities are estimating whether the appropriate limit has been exceeded.

- 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.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/161
Month Issued	November 2017

Request	<p><i>How many allegations has your department received against staff which contain an element of sexual harassment and/or inappropriate sexual behaviour during each of the following financial years:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012/13 • 2013/14 • 2014/15 • 2015/16 • 2016/17 <p><i>Please provide a breakdown for each of the above financial years stating the outcome of the investigations including any action taken.</i></p>
Response	<p>The department has not received any allegations containing an element of sexual harassment and/or inappropriate sexual behaviour during the years in question.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/162
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I am trying to get an understanding of salary premiums paid to staff working in London, such as “London weighting” or “London allowance”. For ease, I will refer to “London weighting” in the rest of this email, but I am interested in any such contractual scheme or schemes, regardless of the name. I am curious as to the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Do you pay any London weighting to some staff?</i> 2. <i>Do you have any other form of geographical weighting in staff salaries for places other than London?</i> 3. <i>How is such London weighting calculated, is it a fixed sum for each employee, (perhaps prorated for part time employees), or an additional percentage on top of their salary, or something else?</i> 4. <i>What is your annual expenditure on London weighting, and what percentage of your pay bill is this? If this cannot be calculated accurately, please provide an estimate.</i> 5. <i>Can you break your expenditure on London weighting down by the salary band of the employee receiving it? For example, how much London weighting is received by employees earning over £50k per year (pro rata)? Under £20k per year (pro rata)?</i> 6. <i>Please answer all the above questions for all your NDPBs. Happy to receive this information either broken down separately, or a single answer to each of the above covering both the department and your NDPBs. Please do not include any non-Ministerial Departments.</i>

7. Are you able to answer (or provide estimates) to the above questions for parts of the public sector which come under your department's responsibility, where the staff aren't directly employed by the department or your NDPB? For example, if you are the Home Office, are you able to provide some insight into the likely figures relating to UKVI, the police, etc? If you are the DfE, are you able to provide some insight into the likely figures relating to teachers?

Response

1. London weighting is not applied - staff in London have different payscales (see table below)
2. Payscales for different locations in different grades are detailed below
3. No London weighting is applied - the payscales are separate for London staff
4. We are unable to answer this question as there is no London weighting
5. We are unable to answer this question as there is no London weighting
6. As the NIO does not have any NDPBs based in London this question does not apply
7. As the NIO does not have any NDPBs based in London this question does not apply

The Northern Ireland Office aligns with the terms and conditions of the Ministry of Justice and the pay scales are detailed below:

There are five regional Ranges for Bands C – F, these are:

Range 1 Inner London

Range 2 Outer London & SE

Hotspots

Range 3 Hotspots

Range 4 National Plus

Range 5 National Existing

Bands A and B have three regional pay Ranges:

Range 1 Inner London

Range 2 Outer London

Range 3 National

Open pay ranges for Bands A – F

Pay band	Pay Range	Area	Band Min	Band Max
Band A	1	Inner London	51,549	69,659
	Aa	Specialist + 5%	54,126	73,092
	Ab	Specialist + 10%	56,704	76,524
	Ac	Specialist + 15%	59,281	79,956

		2	Outer London	47,167	66,490	
		Aa	Specialist + 5%	49,524	69,765	
		Ab	Specialist + 10%	51,884	73,038	
		Ac	Specialist + 15%	54,241	76,313	
		3	National	42,879	62,265	
		Aa	Specialist + 5%	45,022	65,329	
		Ab	Specialist + 10%	47,166	68,391	
		Ac	Specialist + 15%	49,309	71,454	
		Band B	1	Inner London	35,895	46,424
	Ba			Specialist + 5%	37,690	48,694
	Bb			Specialist + 10%	39,485	50,966
	Bc			Specialist + 15%	41,281	53,286
	2		Outer London	33,963	44,312	
			Ba	Specialist + 5%	35,662	46,476
			Bb	Specialist + 10%	37,359	48,642
			Bc	Specialist + 15%	39,058	50,807
	3		National	30,229	40,087	
			Ba	Specialist + 5%	31,741	42,041
			Bb	Specialist + 10%	33,253	43,995
			Bc	Specialist + 15%	34,763	45,949
	Band C	1	Inner London	30,088	37,432	
			Ca	Specialist + 5%	31,593	39,253
			Cb	Specialist + 10%	33,097	41,074
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	27,895	35,870	
			Ca	Specialist + 5%	29,290	37,613
			Cb	Specialist + 10%	30,686	39,357
		3	Hotspots	25,902	33,268	
Ca			Specialist + 5%	27,198	34,881	
Cb			Specialist + 10%	28,492	36,494	
4		National Plus	23,413	31,188		
		Ca	Specialist + 5%	24,583	32,697	

		Cb	Specialist + 10%	25,753	34,206	
		5	National (Existing)	23,413	31,188	
		Ca	Specialist + 5%	24,583	32,697	
		Cb	Specialist + 10%	25,753	34,206	
	Band D	1	Inner London	25,510	29,290	
		Db	Specialist + 10%	27,959	32,118	
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	23,603	27,270	
		Db	Specialist + 10%	25,862	29,896	
		3	Hotspots	21,797	25,984	
		Db	Specialist + 10%	23,874	28,482	
		4	National Plus	20,448	24,486	
		Db	Specialist + 10%	21,775	26,834	
		5	National (Existing)	20,448	24,486	
		Db	Specialist + 10%	20,672	26,864	
	Band E (open range)	1	Inner London	21,903	23,483	
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	20,579	22,124	
		3	Hotspots	19,246	20,756	
		4	National Plus	18,240	19,724	
		5	National Existing	18,240	19,724	
	Band F (open range)	1	Inner London	18,408	19,897	
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	17,374	18,837	
		3	Hotspots	15,750	17,170	
		4	National Plus	15,282	16,689	
		5	National Existing	15,282	16,689	
	Note: The table shows the maxima and minima for each pay range with effect from 1 August 2016					

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/163
Month Issued	November 2017

Request	<i>Just a quick FOI Query to establish who was the N.I Secretary of State during the period late 1998/ early1999? Additionally, who was the Minister with overall responsibility for Roads during this period?</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Mo Mowlam was the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for the period May 1997 - Oct 1999. The Department for Infrastructure may be in a position to confirm who their Minister was at that time; they can be contacted at the following email address: dfiimu@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/164
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I seek the following information.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For the years 2010-11, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 please provide:</i> • <i>Each staff suspension during the period with the start date, end date (unless ongoing), the allegation/reason that led to the suspension (please provide as much detail with cost limits), the outcome of the suspension, and the salary of the suspended member.</i>
Response	<i>In response to all your queries above I can confirm that no civil servants from this department were suspended during the years 2010-11, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.</i>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/165
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<i>I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Please state the number of sexual assault allegations made by your department's staff in each of the last 5 financial years and the current financial year to date. Please provide the description logged of each incident, redacting any details that could be personally identifying.</i> 2. <i>Please state the amount paid in compensation or other payments related to the incident to staff who made the allegations of sexual assault in each of the last five financial years and the current financial year to date.</i> 3. <i>Please state the number of staff dismissed for unacceptable sexual conduct in each of the last five financial years and the current financial year to date.</i>

Response	In response to all your queries above I can confirm that no allegations of sexual assault were logged, no compensation or other related payments were made and no member of staff was dismissed for unacceptable sexual conduct, from the department in the last five financial years and the current financial year to date.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/166
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p>I am writing under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The number of complaints of sexual harassment or abuse made against ministers or officials in your department since 7 May 2010. If possible, I would also like details of the dates and nature of any complaints.</i> 2. <i>The number of cases of this kind in which any such complaint was:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>dismissed without an inquiry</i> (b) <i>dismissed following an inquiry</i> (c) <i>upheld following an inquiry</i> 3. <i>The number of cases of this kind which resulted in disciplinary action and the disciplinary action taken.</i>
Response	In response to all your queries above I can confirm that no complaints of sexual harassment or abuse were made against ministers or officials in this department since 7 May 2010. There were also no complaints of this kind which were dismissed without an inquiry, dismissed following an inquiry or upheld following an inquiry and no cases which resulted in disciplinary action being taken.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/167
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Since the general election 2017 to date how many times has an incident of harassment been raised in your department that involved a member of senior management</i> 2. <i>Additionally to the above could you please define in your response whether the senior manager was a civil servant or a member of the ministerial team.</i>
Response	In response to all your queries above I can confirm that since the general election 2017, no incidents of harassment have been raised that involved either a member of the Senior Management team of the department or the Ministerial Team.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/168
Month Issued	November 2017

Request	<p>Please could you let me have the name and details of the person in your department who best fits the following job-title / description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing Manager and / or Communications Manager • Social Media Manager
Response	The Northern Ireland Office does not have job titles matching your request, however queries relating to communications should be sent to Deputy Director, Communications, Northern Ireland Office, Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT5 4SH.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/169
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>On Friday 22nd September 2017 two people representing Justice For Northern Ireland Veterans met with Mr James Brokenshire MP Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Brokenshire is seen in a photograph between these two men on social media. The comment beneath states the following in which I will omit what I consider to be sub judice matters.</i></p> <p><i>"Following last weeks march in London we had an invite to meet with the Secretary of state for Northern Ireland. Alan and myself spent just over an hour and a half with James Brokenshire and he took many notes whilst listening with great interest to the points we raised. He was particularly shocked at the details of (Sub judice re ongoing trial of a veteran) We have left the concerns of JFNIV and our members with the Minister who is now engaging with the veteran community, he has assured us he will follow up on the matters raised and we expect to hear back from in (sic) due course".</i></p> <p><i>I would like the following questions answered please.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Were the two representatives of JFNIV invited by Mr Brokenshire or did they arrange an appointment on their behalf.</i> <i>2. In the interest of transparency is a copy of the transcript of this meeting available?</i> <i>3. I find it unbelievable that a Government Minister would be discussing sub judice material on a matter were charges have been laid and a person is awaiting trial with two people who represent nothing more than a Facebook group.</i> <p><i>For the sake of clarity and I very much doubt a Government Minister would allegedly indulge in matters for the Judiciary, therefore can you confirm the veracity of the statement made by these two men representing Justice For Northern Ireland Veterans please?</i></p>
Response	Your request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

	The Northern Ireland Office does not hold details of this meeting. The meeting was requested by a constituent of the Secretary of State (in his capacity as his constituency MP), and was not attended by Departmental officials.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/170
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>Please provide me with copy of the Steele Review (including appendices) commissioned by Secretary of State Paul Murphy in 2003 regarding the review of safety at HMP Maghaberry. I understand the review details the policies and procedures concerning the separation of paramilitary prisoners at Maghaberry Prison.</i></p> <p><i>I am advised that the reference for this review is DEP 03/1957 and that the Corporate Author is the Northern Ireland Office. A copy of the review under the above reference was deposited in the House of Commons on 08-09-2003.</i></p>
Response	<p>I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does hold some of the information requested; The NIO did not appear to hold a copy of the complete report but on this occasion we have been able to retrieve a copy from the House Archives. I hope you find this helpful.</p> <p>I should add that this is not the usual way to obtain these records (as we will normally incur a relatively small cost for doing this) and therefore if you have any further requests you should contact the Archive directly who will be able to consider your request.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/171
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to ask for information on IT systems activity within your department subsequent to the Brexit vote of 2016. I am looking for data on activity undertaken between Friday 24th June 2016 and Friday 3rd November 2017 (inclusive).</i></p> <p><i>If possible, could you share the following: -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• How many outside personnel (e.g. non-permanent employees such as contractors or freelancers) have been provided with access to internal department systems and applications?</i> <i>• When using internal IT department IT systems, are these outside personnel provided with the same safety and security training as permanent personnel?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>(If possible) How many employees (either permanent or temporary) that have worked in a system administrator role have left the department?</i> • <i>(If possible) How many servers did the department have in operation on Friday 24th June 2016?</i> • <i>(If possible) How many servers did the department have in operation on Tuesday 3rd January 2017?</i> • <i>(If possible) How many servers did the department have in operation on Friday 23rd June 2017?</i> • <i>(If possible) How many servers does the department have in operation today Friday 3rd November?</i> • <i>(If possible) What policies do you have in place regarding the auditing and monitoring of privileged access to department systems?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In relation to point one 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 only outside personnel with access to internal systems are contracted by this body to deliver the various services.</p> <p>The additional information you have 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>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/172
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>RE: FOIA Request re Section 133(6H) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988</i></p> <p><i>We refer to the above matter and should be obliged if you could forward to us pursuant to an FOIA request the following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The number of miscarriage of justice applications made in Northern Ireland that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland did not refer back to the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland due to sensitive information or information pertaining to national security, as per Section 133(6H) of the Criminal Justice Act 1998, for the period 2010 - present.</i> <i>2. A breakdown of the religious affiliations of those who made the above applications for miscarriage of justice in Northern Ireland.</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Since the devolution of police and justice functions on 12 April 2010, there have been only two miscarriage of justice compensation applications received by the Northern Ireland Office (the Department of Justice only refer applications where they have reason to believe that protected information may be relevant to the application) that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland did not refer back to the Department of Justice.

There have been other applications for compensation for a miscarriage of justice which the Department of Justice have referred to the Secretary of State; one was referred back to the Department of Justice and there are currently three applications under consideration.

Information in relation to the religious affiliations of applicants is not collected by the NIO and does not form part of the decision-making process in determining whether the Secretary of State or the Minister of Justice is responsible for considering eligibility for compensation for a miscarriage of justice as set out at section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1998.

Please be advised that the FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. It does not place a duty upon public authorities to answer a question unless recorded information exists and is held by that authority. The FOIA duty is to provide the recorded information held.

You can find out more about information held for the purposes of the Act by reading some guidance points we consider when processing a request for information, 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/contents>.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/173
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. How many non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), confidentiality agreements (CDAs), or special severance payments with confidentiality clauses, or any other "gagging orders" have been issued by your department following a complaint of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking or sexual discrimination since 1997 to present?</i> <i>2. How much has your department agreed to pay to the complainants as part of these agreements?</i>

	<i>If possible, I would like the information presented with a year-by-year breakdown of the number of agreements issued, for what complaint they were issued, and the amount of money spent on each agreement.</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can advise you that no information is held in relation to your request.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/183
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>We are conducting a study about the relationship between the acquisition of English skills and exposure to English through the different methods of translation used in the film industry. Unfortunately, we have not been able to obtain the relevant data for Northern Ireland. We were thus wondering if you could provide us with relevant information by answering the three questions included below.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What type(s) of translation method(s) is(are) used in your country?</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Dubbing</i> b) <i>Subtitling</i> c) <i>Voice over</i> 2. <i>Into which of the official languages spoken in your country are films translated? (please list all languages)</i> 3. <i>Is there any documentation about the translation of films in your country that you could provide us with?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request; however the following organisations may be able to assist you with your enquiry –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The British Film Council - http://film.britishcouncil.org • Northern Ireland Screen - http://www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/185
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>Freedom of Information request - The Role of NIO in Improving N Ireland Mental Health and Investability.</i></p> <p><i>Investability and Mental Health are related. Dublin has some of the best levels of each in the world. Stormont, only a hundred miles away, has some of the worst. People wonder why.</i></p>

	<p><i>The possible role of NIO Ministers in this paradox, is, naturally, being examined in a bid to establish the facts. Some ex Direct Rule Ministers for instance openly boast of still treating Irish people, their wives, their children even their correspondence like junk.</i></p> <p><i>Official Office Christmas parties, for instance, would be recognised as far from safe spaces for children of targeted staff.</i></p> <p><i>I wondered if any surveys had been carried out within NIO to determine the extent of such attitudes amongst NIO Ministers.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/174
Month Issued	November 2017
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting the release of all information on the following held by your Department:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. All data security incidents which have occurred in 2016-17;</i> <i>2. All data security incidents in 2016-17 which involved the release of personal email addresses;</i> <i>3. All data security incidents in 2016-17 which have breached data protection laws;</i> <i>4. Any steps have been taken to remedy any such breaches;</i> <i>5. Any disciplinary action which has happened as a result of these breaches.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/175
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The number of fruitless payments (payments for which liability ought not to have been incurred or whether the demand for the goods and services in questions could have been cancelled in time to avoid liability) in excess of £30,000 made by or paid for by your department in the financial years: 2016-17 and 2017-18.</i> 2. <i>What each payment was for</i> 3. <i>The value of each payment</i> 4. <i>The reason why the payment was made</i> 5. <i>The reason why the payment was classified as fruitless</i> 6. <i>Whether any disciplinary action was taken as a result of the payment (if there was any disciplinary action, please specify what the action was)</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)</p> <p>The NIO does not hold any information that currently falls within the scope of your request as no such payments have been made in the financial years specified.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/176
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>I would be grateful if you would provide the following information submitted as a Freedom of Information Request.</i></p> <p><u>Part 1</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Does your department currently use a private company to undertake any of the following services:</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Relations</i> • <i>Social Media Communications</i> • <i>External Stakeholder Communications</i> • <i>Internal Stakeholder Communications</i> <p>2. <i>If yes, can you please confirm:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When the current contract was last let</i> • <i>When the current contract expires</i> • <i>Whether the current contract has options to extend its length</i> • <i>When you expect to retender the contract.</i> <p>3. <i>If no (to question 1 above), are you considering letting such a contract in the future and if so, do you have an approximate timetable for engaging the market?</i></p> <p><u><i>Part 2</i></u></p> <p>4. <i>Have you used a private company to help you with any other marketing or public information campaigns in the past 2 years?</i></p> <p>5. <i>If so, could you please provide a brief overview of what those campaigns were about and approximately how long your contract with the company was for to support the campaign(s)</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In response to your request please see the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 -The Northern Ireland Office does not currently use a private company to undertake services you refer to and does not intend to contract such a service in the immediate future. • Part 2 - The Northern Ireland Office appointed Millward Brown Ulster in September 2016 to carry out research to provide a detailed understanding around the current context for paramilitary style attacks in Northern Ireland, as well as exploring community attitudes to paramilitary style attacks. The contract was completed within an 8 month period.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/177
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<i>I've been working at the National Archives in London and came across a file I would like to see reference is:</i>

	<p><i>'CJ 4/5493 Publicity for security forces successes'</i></p> <p><i>This file is not available and the National Archives has written to say 'This record is currently retained by the Northern Ireland Office under section 3 (4) of the Public Records Act 1958 and is therefore not held by The National Archives.'</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>As you may be aware to meet the transitional arrangements to a '20 year rule' as required by the Constitutional Reform & Governance Act 2010 departments are processing twice as much material per year for transfer, and The National Archives (TNA) therefore also has at least twice as much material to process.</p> <p>In the case of this file the NIO had an administrative need to temporarily retain the file the day before transfer and sent the file in at a later date. With the amount of material TNA are receiving this put this file behind the rest of the catalogue it should have transferred with for accessioning.</p> <p>Your request came in after we had transferred but before TNA had fully accessioned so the TNA Discovery entry was not up to date. This is an incredibly rare occurrence but we do appreciate that this has caused delays in accessing the file that would not normally have occurred for which we apologise.</p> <p>NIO accessing the file on your behalf would not be helpful to TNA or other users so unfortunately we do have to refer you back to TNA to access the file. If this does cause you problems please directly contact the Head of Records & Information Management, via foi@nio.gov.uk, who will endeavour to assist you if needed.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/179
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request, for all premises used by your Department, the name of the company currently supplying energy to the premises, for electricity and gas.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office maintains two office locations, one in Stormont House, Belfast and another in 1 Horse Guards Road, London. In both cases the landlords for the property are responsible for the managed service of energy supplies. The information requested in relation to electricity is not held by the NIO.</p>

	The current gas supplier for Stormont House is Firmus Gas, gas is not provided as a utility in 1 Horse Guards Road.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/180
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request, for all premises used by your Department, the names of companies supplying energy to the premises over the past ten calendar years, including start and end dates of contracts where the supplier was switched.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office maintains two office locations, one in Stormont House, Belfast and another in 1 Horse Guards Road, London. In both cases the landlords for the property are responsible for the managed service of energy supplies. The information requested in relation to electricity and gas is not held by the NIO.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/181
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. What is the Northern Ireland Office's total spend on advertising and communications over the past 5 years, split out by years (2016-2017, 2015-2016, 2014-2015, 2013-2014, 2012-2013)</i><i>2. And broken down by advertising medium by year along the lines of AA Warc Expenditure Reports, with digital advertising broken out where possible.</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• Internet (of which mobile)</i><i>• Facebook</i><i>• Google</i><i>• TV (of which Video on Demand)</i><i>• Direct mail</i><i>• Out of home (outdoor and transport) (of which digital)</i><i>• National newsbrands (of which digital)</i><i>• Regional newsbrands (of which digital)</i><i>• Magazine brands (of which digital)</i><i>• Radio (of which digital)</i>

Response	<p>Your request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In response to your request please see the following;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Northern Ireland Office's spend on advertising or communications between 2012-2017 (to date) on the platforms identified has been nil 2. See point 1.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/182
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, please can I ask for the following information on the number of staff employed within your department who have taken time off due to mental health related illness (such as stress, depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>For each of the following questions I am looking for figures for each of the last five financial years (2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14, 2012/13)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The number of staff in your department who have taken time off due to mental health related illness in each of the last five financial years?</i> <i>2. The total number of calendar days taken off by staff in your department due to mental health related illness in each of the last five financial years?</i> <i>3. The proportion of total sick leave days taken by staff in your department which were due to mental health related illness in the last five financial years?</i> <i>4. The number of staff who resigned due to mental health related illness in each of the last five financial years?</i>
Response	<p>In respect of question one we are not obliged, under section 40(2) of the Act, to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). In this instance we believe that the release of this information would contravene the first data protection principle and therefore section 40 (2) is engaged. The terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.</p> <p>The responses to questions two and three are detailed in the table below. The information relates to actual working days lost as this is how the Cabinet Office has requested it is reported.</p>

Financial Year	Actual working days lost due to mental health related illness	Proportion of total sick leave due to Mental health related illness
2012-13	15 days	5%
2013-14	75 days	12%
2014-15	95 days	27%
2015-16	197 days	22%
2016-17	418 days	58%

A wide range of conditions are encapsulated under the term “Mental Health”. This includes conditions such as stress, anxiety, depression, mood-affective disorders, disorders of personality and behaviour and schizophrenia. During 2016/17 an unprecedented number of staff experienced challenging life-events. Their absence from the office was captured under the heading of “Mental Health” illness which explains the increase in days lost.

In response to question four there have been no staff resignations in the last five financial years due to mental health related issues.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/184
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>I would like to request answers to the below questions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The questions concern the Windows 7 operating system and its ‘end of life’.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>How many of your PCs run on the following? (Please type numbers)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Windows 10 =</i> • <i>Windows 7 =</i> • <i>Windows XP =</i> • <i>Other (Please state) =</i> 2) <i>Are you aware of Window 7’s end of life date? (Delete as appropriate)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yes</i> • <i>No</i> • <i>Unsure</i> 3) <i>Do you have an active project to deal with Window 7’s end of life? (Delete as appropriate)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yes</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No • Don't know <p>4) <i>If so, is it due to complete before EOL date? (Delete as appropriate)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't know <p>5) <i>What is your biggest challenge when it comes to migrating to a new operating system? (Delete as appropriate)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost/budget • Skills shortage • Inability to move apps <p>6) <i>If you have previously migrated apps to newer versions of Windows, how long did this take? (Delete as appropriate)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 1 year • 1-2 years • 2-3 years • 3-4 years • Other (Please state) = <p>7) <i>How many computers do you have in your environment? (Type number or delete as appropriate)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please state = • Don't know
Response	<p>Please find below answers in relation to your questions according to their number:</p> <p>Q1, Q3, Q4, Q5 & Q6. The Northern Ireland Office can confirm that all PC's run on Windows operating systems, however, we can neither confirm nor deny which versions of said operating systems are used 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>Q2. Yes</p> <p>Q7. 195</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/186
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<i>Can you please provide me with the cost to the local council of the 04/10/2017 Duke of Cambridge and entourage visit to Belfast? This will include but not be limited to planning costs and operational costs before, during and after the event.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information in respect of cost to the local council in relation to the Duke of Cambridge's visit to Belfast on 04/10/17. Belfast City Council may be in a position to assist with your enquiry. Please see the link to their website – http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/freedomofinformation/freedomofinformation.aspx</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/187
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>Please could I have a response to the following questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) How many disposable cups has your Department purchased in each year for the last five years?</i> <i>2) How many reusable plastic cups have been purchased for sale and how many have been sold, in each year for the last five years?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office does not hold records in relation to disposable cups or plastic cups purchased over the last five years. The department does not sell cups separately to beverages therefore no individual cost per cup is available. The information requested in relation to cups is therefore not held by the NIO.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/188
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to request the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The amount spent by your department on Christmas decorations in 2017. If figures for 2017 are not available, I would like the figure for the most recent year which is available.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)</p> <p>The cost of Christmas decorations in 2017 was £108. This was funded by contributions from staff.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/189
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <p><i>I am looking for information about internet webpages accessed by staff. Please could you provide me with the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A list of the 500 most accessed websites – in terms of pages views (or however you record this) – on computers over the past 12 months (December 2016 to December 2017)</i> <i>Please could you provide the URL of the website and number of times it has been accessed by computers on the network.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>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, Northern Ireland. The information requested is, therefore, not held by this Department. This information may be available from the Department of Finance, Northern Ireland who can be contacted at foi@finance-ni.gov.uk.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/190
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Please state the total number of staff in your department that have withdrawn from civil service pension schemes in each of the following financial years.</i>

	<p>I. 2012/13</p> <p>II. 2013/14</p> <p>III. 2014/15</p> <p>IV. 2015/16</p> <p>V. 2016/17</p> <p>VI. 2017/18 to 25/11/17.</p> <p>2) Please provide a breakdown of the number of staff that have withdrawn from civil service pensions schemes by the following age brackets:</p> <p>a) Under 30</p> <p>b) 30-50</p> <p>c) Over 50</p> <p>Please provide information for each of the following financial years:</p> <p>I. 2012/13</p> <p>II. 2013/14</p> <p>III. 2014/15</p> <p>IV. 2015/16</p> <p>V. 2016/17</p> <p>VI. 2017/18 to 25/11/17.</p>
Response	In response to all your queries above I can confirm that this information is not held by the NIO.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/191
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p>FOIA Request 1</p> <p>I would like information held by the Northern Ireland Office (all departments), or any public body or agency appended to the Northern Ireland Office (all departments), which pertains to The Electoral Commission, which contains any of the following information: election annulment, electoral fraud, voting irregularities, voting interference, or any acts which are not consistent with free and fair elections (please reference 'The Human Rights Act (1998)' and 'The Representation of the People Acts (1918)'). You need only reference official information pertaining to the UK General Election that took place on June 8th, 2017. Please give me written copies of all the information</p> <p>FOIA Request 2</p>

	<p>I would like official information held by the Northern Ireland Office (all departments), or any public body or agency appended to the Northern Ireland Office (all departments), pertaining to the annulment of the UK General Election that took place on June 8th, 2017. Please give me written copies of all the official information requested.</p> <p>FOIA Request 3</p> <p>I would like official information held by the Northern Ireland Office (all departments), or any public body or agency appended to the Northern Ireland Office(all departments), pertaining to the Crown having suspended or dispensed with the law (please reference 'The Bill of Rights (1689)'), e.g. terrorism related activities, or activities designed to instil terror, perpetrating the Grenfell tower block fire incident on June 14th, 2017, activities that led to the annulment of the UK General Election which took place on June 8th, 2017, the imposition of a new Prime Minister, or person who usurped powers otherwise designated to the Prime Minister, or The Prime Ministers Office, 10 Downing Street, in a way inconsistent with the norms of parliamentary conventions, and in a way that is inconsistent with free and fair elections (please reference 'The Human Rights Act (1998)', and 'The Representation of the People Acts (1918)'), or refusing the assent of a bill put forward by parliament, or acting in a way inconsistent with normal conventions (please reference 'The Human Rights Act (1998)', and 'The Representation of the People Acts (1918)'). Please give me written copies of all the official information requested.</p> <p>FOIA Request 4</p> <p>I would like official information held by the Northern Ireland Office (all departments), or any public body or agency appended to the Northern Ireland Office(all departments), pertaining to Tony Blair (Former UK Prime minister,1997-2007) being indicted for terrorism related activities, or activities designed to instil terror, perpetrating the Grenfell tower block fire incident on June 14th, 2017, activities that led to the annulment of the UK General Election which took place on June 8th, 2017, or acting in a capacity which usurped powers otherwise designated to the Prime Minister, or The Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, in a way inconsistent with the norms of parliamentary conventions, and in a way that is inconsistent with free and fair elections (please reference 'The Human Rights Act (1998)', and 'The Representation of the People Acts (1918)'), or encouraging the refusal, by The Crown, of the assent of a bill put forward by parliament, or acting in a way inconsistent with normal parliamentary conventions. Please give me written copies of all the official information requested</p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In relation to your four FOI requests we do not hold the information requested.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/192
Month Issued	December 2017

Request	<p><i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, and refers to interactions with Qubric Associates (https://www.supportingpeace.org/services)</i></p> <p>1) <i>Please provide all internal correspondence and communications that mentions, or refers to, Qubric Associates.</i></p> <p>2) <i>Please provide all external correspondence and communications between the NIO and the following members of Qubric Associates.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms Mary Emma Jean (Little) Pengelly</i> • <i>Mr Kingsley Donaldson</i> • <i>Mr Jeffrey Donaldson</i> • <i>Mr Ian Paisley</i> <p><i>By 'correspondence and communications', I define this as including, but not limited to, the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Emails</i> • <i>Letters</i> • <i>Press clippings</i> • <i>Case files</i> • <i>Memos</i> • <i>Notes taken during telephone calls</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>A search has been carried out for any correspondence that mentions or refers to Qubric Associates; The Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request.</p> <p>In respect of part 2 of your request 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> <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 3 ½ working days' worth of work, calculated at £25 per hour.</p>
FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/193

Month Issued	December 2017												
Request	<p><i>I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i></p> <p>1) <i>Can you please provide me with the overall cost of hotel bills for the department's employees since the start of the 2012-13 financial year?</i></p> <p>2) <i>Can you provide a breakdown of the 10 hotels on which the department has spent the most money during that period?</i></p>												
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)</p> <p>In relation to your first question, the overall cost of hotel bills for the department's employees from Apr 12 - Nov 17 is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2017/18 (Nov 17)</th> <th>2016/17</th> <th>2015/16</th> <th>2014/15</th> <th>2013/14</th> <th>2012/13</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>80,259.84</td> <td>82,979.05</td> <td>72,311.82</td> <td>59,547.08</td> <td>48,132.01</td> <td>95,514.86</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>With regard to your second question hotel accommodation is booked using third party contractors and therefore the NIO does not hold this information.</p>	2017/18 (Nov 17)	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	80,259.84	82,979.05	72,311.82	59,547.08	48,132.01	95,514.86
2017/18 (Nov 17)	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13								
80,259.84	82,979.05	72,311.82	59,547.08	48,132.01	95,514.86								

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/196
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <p>1) <i>Please state the amount your department has spent with consultancy firms in each of the last five financial years and the current financial year to date.</i></p> <p>2) <i>Please provide a breakdown of this figure by the amount spent with each firm, for each year.</i></p> <p><i>Please also give a description of what each individual spend was for.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)</p> <p>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 3 ½ working days' worth of work, calculated at £25 per hour. If you believe this reply is not in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request a review you should do so in writing stating the reasons.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/197
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<p><i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. How many employees or contractors, including those contracted by third party agencies, are currently on zero-hours contracts with the department and its executive agencies, if any?</i> <i>2. How many employees are there with department in total, on any type of contract?</i> <i>3. How many employees with the department were on zero-hour contracts in the last five years, if any?</i> <i>4. Could I have a breakdown of the roles that the department's zero-hour contracts apply to?</i>
Response	<p>In response to question one there are currently no employees or contractors, including those contracted by third party agencies on zero hour contracts within the department.</p> <p>In response to question two there are 105 employees in total in the department on contracts.</p> <p>In response to question three, there have been no employees in the department on zero hour contracts in the last five years.</p> <p>In answer to question four, as we have no employees on zero hour contracts this question will not apply.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/17/199
Month Issued	December 2017
Request	<i>I would like to make a freedom of information request as to whether you use a company called "Super Recognisers International" or any of their subsidiaries.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office has responsibility for Stormont House, Belfast, 1 Horse Guards Road, London and Hillsborough Castle, Hillsborough. The list of Contractors availed of by the NIO for Stormont House, are published by Central Procurement</p>

Directive (CPD), Department of Finance Northern Ireland. This information may be available from the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland who can be contacted at foi@finance-ni.gov.uk.

In relation to the remaining two properties, we receive managed services provided by Her Majesties Treasury (HMT) and Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) and therefore do not hold the relevant information.