

QUARTER 2 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSES

Year	Month	FOI Reference	Topic
2018	Apr	FOI/18/065	Brexit preparations: border security
2018	Apr	FOI/18/066	Spending on business class flights
2018	Apr	FOI/18/068	Special Adviser involvement in FOI handling
2018	Apr	FOI/18/069	Special Adviser involvement in FOI handling
2018	Apr	FOI/18/070	Constitutional Research Council: correspondence and communications
2018	Apr	FOI/18/074	Employment of Cybersecurity Analysts
2018	Apr	FOI/18/076	Correspondence on same sex marriage
2018	Apr	FOI/18/077	Correspondence on abortion
2018	Apr	FOI/18/078	Ministerial meetings and Brexit correspondence
2018	Apr	FOI/18/079	Ministerial meetings and Brexit correspondence
2018	Apr	FOI/18/080	Brexit preparations: legal advice
2018	Apr	FOI/18/081	Ministerial meetings and Brexit correspondence
2018	Apr	FOI/18/082	Executive paper into the funding of legacy inquests
2018	Apr	FOI/18/083	Brexit preparations: border controls and agricultural industries
2018	Apr	FOI/18/084	Ministerial meetings and correspondence
2018	Apr	FOI/18/086	Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland correspondence, Brexit staffing resources and procurement expenditure
2018	Apr	FOI/18/087	Ministerial meetings and Brexit correspondence
2018	Apr	FOI/18/088	Brexit preparations: departmental funding
2018	Apr	FOI/18/100	Belfast Agreement 1998 booklet
2018	Apr	FOI/18/105	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission: appointment of part-time commissioners
2018	May	FOI/18/089	Brexit preparations: external meetings, legal advice and expenditure on illegal immigration monitoring
2018	May	FOI/18/090	Home Protection Scheme provisions
2018	May	FOI/18/091	Courier service contracts
2018	May	FOI/18/092	Courier service contracts
2018	May	FOI/18/093	Brexit preparations: Northern Ireland and Ireland position paper and Democratic Unionist Party correspondence
2018	May	FOI/18/094	Fraudulent transactions

2018	May	FOI/18/096	Royal Prerogative of Mercy pardons
2018	May	FOI/18/098	Ministerial meetings and Brexit correspondence
2018	May	FOI/18/099	Digital and social media marketing campaigns
2018	May	FOI/18/101	Human Resources functions and workforce data
2018	May	FOI/18/102	Diplock courts
2018	May	FOI/18/103	Secretary of State visits to Scotland
2018	May	FOI/18/104	Stormont restoration: independent mediators
2018	May	FOI/18/106	Legatum Institute correspondence
2018	May	FOI/18/107	Data breaches
2018	May	FOI/18/108	Political donations
2018	May	FOI/18/109	Staffing data
2018	May	FOI/18/110	LGBTI rights
2018	May	FOI/18/111	Brexit preparations: staff recruitment
2018	May	FOI/18/112	Ministerial vehicles
2018	May	FOI/18/113	Non-disclosure agreements and financial compensation
2018	May	FOI/18/114	LGBTI rights
2018	May	FOI/18/115	Stormont restoration: catering for meetings
2018	May	FOI/18/116	Junk labelling: recruitment and appeals
2018	May	FOI/18/117	Performance related pay
2018	May	FOI/18/118	Troubles legacy issues
2018	May	FOI/18/119	Data Scientist recruitment
2018	May	FOI/18/120	Taoiseach 2018 visit to Northern Ireland
2018	May	FOI/18/122	Brexit preparations: staff recruitment
2018	May	FOI/18/133	Departmental guidance
2018	June	FOI/18/095	Archival file request: CJ 4/2840
2018	June	FOI/18/121	Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union 2018 visit to Northern Ireland
2018	June	FOI/18/124	Prince of Wales correspondence: Prince's Consent
2018	June	FOI/18/125	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
2018	June	FOI/18/126	Legatum Institute correspondence

2018	June	FOI/18/127	Brexit preparations: Northern Ireland and Ireland position paper and Democratic Unionist Party correspondence
2018	June	FOI/18/128	Kincora Boys' Home
2018	June	FOI/18/129	Historical Investigations Unit: Troubles related killings
2018	June	FOI/18/130	Ashton Park CCTV survey
2018	June	FOI/18/131	Cyber Attacks
2018	June	FOI/18/132	Data integration and data quality tools
2018	June	FOI/18/134	Energy management system
2018	June	FOI/18/135	Staff turnover
2018	June	FOI/18/136	Staffing costs
2018	June	FOI/18/137	Northern Ireland border poll
2018	June	FOI/18/138	Non-disclosure agreements
2018	June	FOI/18/139	Ministerial visits to Northern Ireland
2018	June	FOI/18/140	Northern Ireland border poll on reunification
2018	June	FOI/18/141	2017 UK general election
2018	June	FOI/18/142	Staffing in Scotland
2018	June	FOI/18/143	Introducing direct rule to Northern Ireland
2018	June	FOI/18/144	Legatum Institute correspondence
2018	June	FOI/18/145	MLA pay
2018	June	FOI/18/146	Employer's liability claims
2018	June	FOI/18/147	Staff sick Leave
2018	June	FOI/18/148	Consultancy One Framework Agreement Projects
2018	June	FOI/18/149	Brexit preparations: meetings with Northern Ireland officials
2018	June	FOI/18/151	Digital and social media marketing campaigns

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/065
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<i>Can you please provide me with any information, briefing documents or reports provided to Ministers or senior officials on the security risk at the Irish border in the context of the EU referendum?</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>Your request relates to information provided to Ministers or senior officials on the security risk at the Irish border in the context of the EU referendum. The Prime Minister first pledged to hold an EU referendum on 24 January 2013. To comply with your request and to enable us to identify whether we hold any such material, officials would be required to open and read individually a large amount of records covering a period exceeding five years.</p> <p>You should not infer from this that the Northern Ireland Office holds a large amount of information relating to the subject you have asked about, only that we would need to search through a large amount of records in order to find out whether we hold <i>any</i> information relevant to your request.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office estimates that the cost for this work would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. Consequently, the Northern Ireland Office is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to comply with your request under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</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.</p> <p>Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/066
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like details of the number of business class flights taken by staff from the Department since January 2017, and the total cost of these flights.</i>

Response	<p>Since April 2017, 168 Business Class flights have been booked (totalling 210 journeys) at a cost of £101,022.77. Figures are not available for January 2017 - March 2017 due to a change in contract.</p> <p>The NIO operates a travel policy whereby the cheapest suitable flight available at the time of booking is selected. For travel at short notice or requiring flexibility this sometimes results in business class flights as the most cost effective option.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/068
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I have narrowed the scope of the request below in order to avoid being exempt under Section 12 of the FOI Act.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The involvement of Peter Cardwell Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the handling of freedom of information requests in April 2017. To clarify, I consider 'handling' to mean whether or not they were involved in drafting FOI responses in that time or CC'd in email correspondence regarding any responses.</i> <i>2. Confirmation of the role this individual had in the production of the FOI responses (researching, drafting, checking, signing off etc).</i> <i>3. Confirmation of whether changes were made to the FOI responses following the intervention of the individual listed in Q1 (including a description of the nature and timing of any changes).</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.

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.

	<p>Guidance</p> <p><u>The appropriate limit</u></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.
FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/069
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I have narrowed the scope of the request below in order to avoid being exempt under Section 12 of the FOI Act.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The involvement of Jonathan Caine Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the handling of freedom of information requests in April 2017. To clarify, I consider 'handling' to mean whether or not they were involved in drafting FOI responses in that time or CC'd in email correspondence regarding any responses.</i> <i>2. Confirmation of the role this individual had in the production of the FOI responses (researching, drafting, checking, signing off etc).</i> <i>3. Confirmation of whether changes were made to the FOI responses following the intervention of the individual listed in Q1 (including a description of the nature and timing of any changes).</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>

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.

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

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/18/070
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. It relates to a previous request I submitted (reference: FOI – 18/3), where I was advised that I should narrow its scope. Please note my request comes in several parts.</i></p> <p>1) <i>I would like to request all internal correspondence and communications held by the Northern Ireland Office’s ministers and Permanent Secretary that mentions, or refers to, the Constitutional Research Council. Please search the records from January 2016 to the day this request is processed.</i></p>

	<p>2) <i>I would like to request all external correspondence and communications held by the Northern Ireland Office's ministers and Permanent Secretary that mentions, or refers to, the Constitutional Research Council. Please search the records from January 2016 to the day this request is processed.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to narrow my definition of "correspondence and communications" to the following: - Emails (and their attachments)</i></p>
<p>Response</p>	<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 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 emails (and their attachments) that mention, concern or refer 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> <p>A request for emails (and their attachments) 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.</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 for example specifying a shorter timeframe for the request. However, please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.</p>
<p>FOI Request Reference</p>	<p>FOI/18/074</p>

Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to ask a series of questions around the number of cybersecurity analysts in your department during different time periods between 2015 and 2018.</i></p> <p><i>For the purpose of clarity, I defined a cybersecurity analyst as anyone in the department IT team specifically responsible for monitoring and combatting cyber-threats.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. How many cybersecurity analysts were employed by your department on the 1st Jan 2018?</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. How many of these were staff employed by your department vs an external contractor or by other means (if other please specify for example: provided by another department)?</i> <i>2. How many cybersecurity analysts were employed by your department on the 1st Jan 2017?</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. How many of these were staff employed by your department vs an external contractor or by other means (if other please specify for example: provided by another department)?</i> <i>3. How many cybersecurity analysts were employed by your department on the 1st Jan 2016?</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. How many of these were staff employed by your department vs an external contractor or by other means (if other please specify for example: provided by another department)?</i> <i>4. How many cybersecurity analysts were employed by your department on the 1st Jan 2015?</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) How many of these were staff employed by your department vs an external contractor or by other means (if other please specify for example: provided by another department)?</i> <i>5. If possible, over the period of 1st Jan 2015 and 1st Jan 2018, how many cybersecurity analysts have you had leave and join the department (please specify both how many left and how many joined).</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In respect of your questions The Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested, the following FOIA exemptions are engaged. Section 24 that relates to national security, 31(1) (a) and 31(3) (a) that relate to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.</p> <p>Section 24 is a qualified exemption and so we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to confirm or deny whether we hold the information. In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours neither confirming nor denying whether the requested information is held.</p>

	Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the government holds particular information. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department's IT systems. In this case we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information, which may have been disclosed in an unauthorised manner, is held.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/076
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<i>Please provide copies of all emails held by the Northern Ireland Office, and exchanged between Northern Ireland Office staff, ministers and special advisers, which feature the words "equal marriage", "marriage equality", "gay marriage" and "same sex marriage", between the dates of 1st September 2017 and 28th February 2018 inclusive.</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> <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. 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>

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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/18/077
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<i>Please provide copies of all emails held by the Northern Ireland Office, and exchanged between Northern Ireland Office staff, ministers and special advisers, which feature the words "abortion", "abortion referendum", "repeal", and "eighth amendment", between the dates of 1st September 2017 and 28th February 2018 inclusive.</i>
Response	<p>Your request is being 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. 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><u>The appropriate limit</u></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.
FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/078
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I am writing to make a request for the below information to the extent to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i></p> <p><i>Please send me:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Since 1st June 2017, could you please document the dates, expenditure, and events or meetings made on any trips the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Karen Bradley, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Shailesh Vara MP, and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, have made to Northern Ireland or Ireland?</i> <i>2. Could you please provide a list of security passes issued at 1 Horse Guards Road, since January 1st 2018, to any individuals who met the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Karen Bradley, or any of her political advisers?</i> <i>3. Could you please release all emails sent from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's email address which include the words "hard border" since January 1st 2018?</i> <i>4. Could you please release all emails sent from the private office of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's which include the words "hard border" since January 1st 2018?</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 number 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 number 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 refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider focusing your request on a narrower range of issues and/or on records produced during a more focussed set of dates.

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

In response to the second element of your request, we do not hold this information.

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

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/18/079
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I am requesting the following information.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Could you please provide a list of security passes issued at 1 Horse Guards Road, since January 1st 2018, to any individuals who met the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Shailesh Vara MP, or any of his political advisers.</i> 2. <i>Could you please release all emails sent from the private office of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Shailesh Vara MP, which include the words "hard border" since January 1st 2018?</i> 3. <i>Could you please release all emails sent from the private office of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, which include both the words "Islington" and "Camden" since February 20th 2018?</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 number 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 number 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 refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider focusing your request on a narrower range of issues and/or on records produced during a more focussed set of dates.</p> <p>Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.</p>

In response to the first element of your request, we do not hold this information.

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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/080
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I am writing to make a request for the below information to the extent to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i></p> <p><i>Please send me:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Could you please detail any firms which have supplied the Department with legal advice pertaining to any Brexit related issues since 1st January 2017?</i> <i>2. Could you release any legal advice the Department has received pertaining to any Brexit related issues since 1st January 2017?</i> <i>3. Since January 1st 2018, could you please document any meetings the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Shailesh Vara MP, or anyone representing him, has had with individuals or groups outside the department since January 1st 2018? Could you please detail the names of these individuals and groups, insofar as these meetings pertained to government business?</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>

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

In response to the third element of your request, we publish meetings between external bodies and our ministerial team on a quarterly basis. Meetings that have taken place this quarter will be published in due course and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=northern-ireland-office>

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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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extracting the information from the document containing it.
FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/081
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I am requesting the following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Since January 1st 2018, could you please document any meetings the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, Or anyone representing him, has had with individuals or groups outside the department since January 1st 2018? Could you please detail the names of these individuals and groups, insofar as these meetings pertained to government business?</i> <i>2. Could you please provide a list of security passes issued at 1 Horse Guards Road, since January 1st 2018, to any individuals who met the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, or any staff representing him.</i> <i>3. Could you please release all emails sent from the private office of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, which include the words "hard border" since January 1st 2018?"</i> <i>4. Could you please release all emails sent from the private office of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, which include both the words "Islington" and "Camden" since February 20th 2018?</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 number 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 number 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 refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider focusing your request on a narrower range of issues and/or on records produced during a more focussed set of dates.

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

In response to the second element of your request, we do not hold this information.

In response to the third element of your request, we publish meetings between external bodies and our ministerial team on a quarterly basis. Meetings that have taken place this quarter will be published in due course and can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=northern-ireland-office>

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 - (a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
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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.

	<p>(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—</p> <p>(a) by one person, or</p> <p>(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.</p> <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><u>The appropriate limit</u></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/18/082
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, I request copies of the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The affidavits of Colin Perry in respect of the Judicial Review taken by Bridget Hughes against, inter alia, the Northern Ireland Office, on which judgment was given by Sir Paul Girvan on 8 March; and any other affidavits filed on behalf of the NIO in that case.</i> 2. <i>Documents indicating how the Executive Paper submitted by the then Minister of Justice relating to the funding of legacy inquests came into the possession of NIO officials.</i> 3. <i>Any analysis by economists, accountants or similar professionals of the proposals in the Executive Paper proposals</i>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Any other documents which indicate he alleged ‘weaknesses’ in the Executive Paper to which Mr Perry’s affidavit apparently refers.</i> 5. <i>Documents relating to discussions on the Executive Paper between representatives of the NIO (Ministers, officials or special advisors) and</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>the Lord Chief Justice or his officials;</i> b) <i>the Minister of Justice, his special advisor or DoJ officials;</i> c) <i>officials of the then OFMDFM;</i> d) <i>representatives of the DUP (Ministers, special advisors, elected representatives or staff members);</i> e) <i>representatives (similarly defined) of any other Northern Ireland Departments or political parties.</i> 6. <i>Any protocol or guidance note or similar document relating to engagement with political parties or Executive Departments in Northern Ireland.</i>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>We can confirm that we do hold some of the information that you have asked for, however we will not be providing it in accordance with exemptions within the FOIA.</p> <p>Section 32 of the FOIA provides an absolute exemption from providing information contained in documents that are created or held for the purposes of court, inquiry or arbitration proceedings. The affidavits sought in paragraph 1 of your letter have been filed with the Court and fall within this exemption. There is a formal regime in place for a non-party to an action to obtain copies of court documents under Order 66 Rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Leave of the court is required to inspect or take a copy of an affidavit filed in a case in which proceedings have commenced, which can be sought on ex-parte application to the Court. You may wish to redirect your request for copy affidavits to the Court.</p> <p>In relation to the request at paragraph 3 of your letter we confirm that we do not hold such information.</p> <p>In relation to the remainder of your request, we have determined that this falls into the section 12 exemption. The FOIA allows us to decline to answer requests under section 12 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>

	<p>You should not infer from this that the Northern Ireland Office holds a large amount of information relating to the subject you have asked about, only that officials would need to search through a large amount of records in order to find out whether they hold any information relevant to your requests and then assess and extract any relevant information individually.</p> <p>We therefore respectfully suggest that you reconsider the breadth of your request. If you wish to submit a narrower request in respect of the remaining information requested at paragraphs 2 and 4 - 6, please do so and we will be very happy to consider it.</p> <p>Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/083
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I would like to request the following information.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Could the Department release any reports, assessments, or advice it has commissioned, either internally or externally, regarding whether the UK confining its border control frontier to England, Scotland, and Wales. Could the Department release any reports, assessments, or advice it has commissioned, either internally or externally, which mention or suggest shifting the United Kingdom's border controls to Irish ports and airports?</i> 2. <i>Could the Department release any reports, assessments, or advice it has commissioned, either internally or externally, regarding the impact of Brexit on the agricultural industry of Northern Ireland, or the agri-foods industry of Northern Ireland?</i> 3. <i>Could the Department release any reports, assessments, or advice it has commissioned, either internally or externally, regarding the impact of Brexit on the ability to control smuggling in Northern Ireland?</i> 4. <i>Could you realise any emails from the Private Office of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Karen Bradley, containing the words "Brexit" and any of the following: "smuggling", "agri-food", "Operation Gull", "agriculture", "impact" since January 1st 2018?</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>

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 number 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 number 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 refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider focusing your request on a narrower range of issues and/or on records produced between a particular set of dates.

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

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Guidance

The appropriate limit

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- £600 for central government and Parliament.
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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
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/084
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I would like to request the following information.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Since January 1st 2018, could you please document any meetings the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, or anyone representing him, has had with individuals or groups outside the department since January 1st 2018? Could you please detail the names of these individuals and groups, insofar as these meetings pertained to government business?</i>

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<p>Response</p>	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In response to the first element of the request, we publish meetings between external bodies and our ministerial team on a quarterly basis. Meetings that have taken place this quarter will be published in due course and can be found at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=northern-ireland-office</p> <p>In response to the second element of your request, we do not hold this information.</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 number 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 number 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 refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider focusing your request on a narrower range of issues and/or on records produced during a more focussed set of dates.</p> <p>Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.</p>

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- (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/18/086
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I would like to request the following information.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Could you please release any emails from the Secretary of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland's email account which include any of the following words "unfair", "gerrymander", "gerrymandering", "pressure", "dubious", "embarrass", "embarrassed", "bung", "bribe" insofar as those emails pertain to the Commission's business?</i> <i>2. Could you please release the number of civil servants in the Department whose work primarily relating to Brexit?</i> <i>3. Could you please document how many individuals in the Department have access to a Government Procurement Card (GPC)? Could you please document the total cumulative expenditure of all the Government Procurement Cards issued by the Department since 1st January 2017?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The NIO does not hold any information within the scope of this request. The Boundary Commission may be in a position to assist you with this matter; the Commission can be contacted at the following email address - contact@boundarycommission.org.uk 2. EU exit affects a number of work areas across the Department and will therefore encompass a proportion of workload for many staff, the amount of which will vary over time. The Department has recently restructured its approach to the way it handles EU exit work, moving from a central EU exit co-ordinating team of 7 to a position in which core EU exit work is distributed more widely across the whole department. 3. The NIO had one Government Procurement Card in use from January 2017. Total spend since then was £ 2,950.13 for stationery and subscriptions. One person has access to this card.

This account was closed at the end of 17-18 as we no longer use Government Procurement Cards.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/087
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I am requesting this following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. Since January 1st 2018, could you please document any meetings the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, or anyone representing him, has had with individuals or groups outside the department since January 1st 2018? Could you please detail the names of these individuals and groups, insofar as these meetings pertained to government business?</i><i>2. Could you please provide a list of security passes issued at 1 Horse Guards Road, since January 1st 2018, to any individuals who met the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, or any staff representing him.</i><i>3. Could you please release all emails sent from the private office of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, which include the words "hard border" since January 1st 2018?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In response to the first element of the request, we publish meetings between external bodies and our ministerial team on a quarterly basis. Meetings that have taken place this quarter will be published in due course and can be found at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=northern-ireland-office</p> <p>In response to the second element of your request, we do not hold this information.</p> <p>In response to the third element of your request, 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 number of records individually.</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 number 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 refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider focusing your request on a narrower range of issues and/or on records produced during a more focussed set of dates.

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, 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/18/088
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<i>With regards to the specific Brexit funding allocated to your department for 18/19 at Spring Statement 2018, can you please (a) confirm that this funding has subsequently been allocated internally within the department and (b) if so, publish those internal allocations?</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

	<p>(a) I can confirm that the specific Brexit funding allocated to the Northern Ireland Office for 18/19 at Spring Statement 2018 has been allocated internally.</p> <p>(b) My department has been allocated £0.4m for essential EU exit preparations in 2018-19. This will be spent on policy and legal work to ensure that Northern Ireland's interests are fully represented, considered and managed across a range of subjects as the UK withdraws from the EU.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/100
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<i>I would like to know if it would be possible to obtain an original copy of the Belfast Agreement 1998 which was sent to homes throughout Northern Ireland, or perhaps advise where I may get one.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>Please see the attached pdf copy of the Belfast Agreement 1998 which was sent to home throughout Northern Ireland.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/105
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<p><i>I hereby request that within the Freedom of Information Act you let me have the following information:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Names of the persons appointed as part time Human Rights Commissioners to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in the latest tranche of appointments, together with details of the professional or other qualifications of the persons appointed.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In response to your request I can advise you that information relating to the last round of appointments to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission was published on 30 August 2017 and can be found on the Northern Ireland Office website.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secretary-of-state-appoints-new-members-to-northern-ireland-human-rights-commission</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/089
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<i>I am requesting the following pieces of information.</i>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Could the Department detail any meetings it has had with any groups offering advice or services regarding ensuring that the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland remains as 'soft' and frictionless as possible after Brexit since 1st June 2017?</i> 2. <i>Could the Department release any legal or political advice it has commissioned, either internally or externally, regarding whether Westminster or Northern Ireland will take charge of the range of competences currently shared between the European Union and Northern Ireland?</i> 3. <i>Could the department release any reports, or advice, it has commissioned, either internally or externally, regarding what will happen to the Common Travel Area between Ireland and Northern Ireland after Brexit?</i> 4. <i>Could the Department release the yearly expenditure of 2017 for Operation Gull, the operation monitoring non-EU illegal immigration into Britain via Northern Ireland?</i>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 NIO officials met a representative of SICPA (a security provider and adviser who provide secured identification, traceability and authentication solutions and services) on 15 January 2018, at their invitation, to hear their thoughts on how technology could help provide effective approaches in relation to ensuring a frictionless border between Northern Ireland and Ireland post-Brexit. • Question 4 The Department does not hold the requested information. The Home Office are the lead Department on Operation Gull. • Questions 2 and 3 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>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 number of records individually. This particularly applies in relation to the second, third and fourth strand of the request.</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 number 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.

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, 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/18/090
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<i>We would be grateful if you could let us have a copy of the provisions of the Home Protection Scheme</i>
Response	<p>The Northern Ireland Office holds the additional information which you have requested in respect of the Home Protection Scheme, however as section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged it is exempt from disclosure. We are not obliged to provide information if its release would be likely to endanger the health and safety of any individual.</p> <p>Public interest considerations favouring disclosure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the public with increased transparency around the Home Protection Scheme.

- Revealing the information would allow the public to understand the circumstances in which individuals may be admitted to and removed from the Home Protection Scheme.
- Revealing the information would allow the public to understand the scope and specification of the protective security measures which are available under the Home Protection Scheme.
- Greater transparency makes government departments more accountable and increases public trust and scrutiny.

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information

- Disclosure of the information would compromise the effectiveness of the protective security measures available under the Home Protection Scheme and therefore endanger the personal safety of any individual who has been admitted to the Scheme, or any individual who may be admitted to the scheme in the future.

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

You can find out more about Section 38 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/38>

EXPLANATION OF FOIA - SECTION 38 – HEALTH AND SAFETY

We have provided below additional information about Section 38 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 38: Health and safety.

- (1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to-
- (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or

(b) endanger the safety of any individual.
 (2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, have either of the effects mentioned in subsection (1).

Guidance

Section 38 applies to information that if disclosed would be likely to put the physical or mental health or the safety of any individual at risk or greater risk. The individual does not need to be identifiable and may be a member of the public, where the danger is to the health or safety of the public at large. The exemption can apply equally to a group or class of people who could have their health and safety adversely affected by disclosure.

An act of disclosure may cause mental harm directly – for example resulting in a sufficient level of shock or distress as to endanger an individual’s future mental well-being.

There are many different ways in which disclosure of information could endanger someone's health or safety either directly or indirectly. The following are some examples of such disclosures:

- those which would allow individuals, groups or firms to be identified or located and consequently targeted and attacked for their beliefs or practices, including work in controversial scientific areas;
- disclosure of plans and policies relating to the accommodation of individuals, or groups of individuals, where disclosure could lead to their being threatened or harassed (for example, asylum seekers)
- disclosing information about negotiations with kidnappers, where disclosure could endanger the safety of hostages
- information relating to the protection of the Critical National Infrastructure, such as the water supply, national grid, or gas supply from actions intended to cause catastrophic damage and/or cause death or serious injury
- information relating to the identity of informers or undercover officers
- disclosure which may have an adverse effect on public health
- the disclosure of sensitive or graphic information about deceased individuals which could cause serious distress to others such as family members, particularly if they were not previously aware of it.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/091
Month Issued	April 2018
Request	<i>I am writing to make an open government request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please send me details for the period 2017-18 on the following:</i>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The total value of the courier service contracts that were outsourced?</i> 2. <i>The name of your primary and any secondary Courier supplier.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The value of your primary supplier contract, its expiry date and the services they provide (e.g. same day/next-day/overnight)</i> • <i>The value of your secondary supplier's contract, its expiry date and the and services they provide (e.g. same day/next-day/overnight)</i> 3. <i>The total cost of the courier services that were managed in-house?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The number of staff employed in managing those contracts</i> • <i>The number of vehicles owned or leased to meet the in-house courier requirement</i> 4. <i>The name and email of the person responsible for the procurement/management of these services?</i>
Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Northern Ireland office does not hold an outsourced courier service contract. 2. This does not apply to the Northern Ireland Office. 3. There are no staff or costs involved in managing a courier contract. 4. This is not applicable.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/092
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>I am writing to make an open government request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I</i></p> <p><i>Please send me details for the period 2017-18 on the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The total value of the courier service contracts that were outsourced?</i> 2. <i>The name of your primary and any secondary Courier supplier</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The value of your primary supplier contract, its expiry date and the services they provide (e.g. same day/next-day/overnight)</i> • <i>The value of your secondary supplier's contract, its expiry date and the and services they provide (e.g. same day/next-day/overnight)</i> 3. <i>The total cost of the courier services that were managed in-house?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The number of staff employed in managing those contracts</i> • <i>The number of vehicles owned or leased to meet the in-house courier requirement</i> 4. <i>The name and email of the person responsible for the procurement/management of these services?</i>
Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Northern Ireland office does not hold an outsourced courier service contract.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. This does not apply to the Northern Ireland Office. 3. There are no staff or costs involved in managing a courier contract. 4. This is not applicable.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/093
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act in relation to correspondence with the Democratic Unionist Party and the Northern Ireland position paper published in summer 2017.</i></p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northern-ireland-and-ireland-a-positionpaper</p> <p><i>More specifically I would like the following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Please provide any email communications between the NIO and Democratic Unionist Party members or DUP elected representatives that makes reference to the Northern Ireland position paper, between July 1 2017 and August 31 2017.</i> 2. <i>Please provide any internal NIO email communication that make references to the Democratic Unionist Party and the position paper between July 1 2017 and August 31 2017.</i>
Response	<p>Although the date range is relatively focussed the first question covers potentially every NIO official and over 100 elected representatives of the DUP - on top of this we would also need to include any unelected members. This would require on the simplest level well over 10,000 searches. The second question would also require every NIO official to check their inboxes over that time period to see if they hold records which reference both the 'Democratic Unionist Party / DUP' and the 'position paper'. This is not to say that the NIO holds any information but as it stands your question is too wide for us to reasonably attempt the searches.</p> <p>I would suggest you may wish to look at open source material at the time to see if you can narrow the officials potentially involved. This may be DUP spokespeople and relevant NIO officials available on gov.uk</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/094
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<i>Please provide an itemised list - i.e. expense description, supplier name, transaction date, reference and amount in GBP - of any fraudulent transactions, whether third party or not, on procurement cards in financial years 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15 and 2013-14.</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

	The Northern Ireland Office can confirm that it is not aware of any procurement card fraudulent transactions in the period covered by this request.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/096
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<i>In pursuit of the Freedom of Information Act I request all information held by the Northern Ireland Office relating to the decision to use the Royal Prerogative in 1985 to release two women convicted of the manslaughter of three members of the Herron family in Dromore Co Down on 7th April 1976.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>Following a search of our records, I can confirm the NIO does not hold any information, relating to the decision to use the RPM in relation to your request, however, you may wish to see if the Public Records Office (Northern Ireland), (PRONI), may be able to assist you in your search for information. PRONI may be contacted via the following link, proni@communities-ni.gov.uk.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/098
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>It would be much appreciated if you could answer the following questions.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Since January 1st 2018, could you please document any meetings the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, or anyone representing him, has had with individuals or groups outside the department since January 1st 2018? Could you please detail the names of these individuals and groups, insofar as these meetings pertained to government business?</i> <i>2. Could you please provide a list of security passes issued at 1 Horse Guards Road, since January 1st 2018, to any individuals who met the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, or any staff representing him.</i> <i>3. Could you please release all emails sent from the private office of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Lord Duncan of Springbank, which include the words "hard border" since January 1st 2018?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>In response to the first element of the request, we publish meetings between external bodies and our ministerial team on a quarterly basis. Meetings that have taken place this quarter will be published in due course and can be found at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=northern-ireland-office</p>

In response to the second element of your request, we do not hold this information.

In response to the third element of your request, 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 number 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 number 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 refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider focusing your request on a narrower range of issues and/or on records produced during a more focussed set of dates.

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—
 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/18/099
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to know the following information about digital and social media marketing campaigns administered by the Prime Minister's Office in the last 12 months. This could include information on, but not limited to, activities the department has undertaken involving Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Please supply copies of all digital assets produced to support digital/social media campaigns administered by the Prime Minister's Office. If this is not possible, please provide links to where these assets can be found online.</i> <i>2) Please supply details of the digital media platforms where each digital asset was published, and the budget attached to promoting each asset, on each platform.</i> <i>3) Where a platform allows the user to select a specific target audience for either organic or paid distribution, please supply details of the audiences selected by the Prime Minister's Office for each digital asset, on each platform, where it was published or displayed.</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 that falls within the scope of this request.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/101																		
Month Issued	May 2018																		
Request	<p><i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information on the organisations HR functions and Workforce. Please provide this information by completing the attached spreadsheet.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">1. Please provide the following information for the people responsible for the following HR functions</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Name</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Job Title</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Email Address</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">2. For the following financial years, please provide the following information</th> <th style="width: 15%;">2015/16</th> <th style="width: 15%;">2016/17</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2a. What is the organisations total gross pay costs</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1. Please provide the following information for the people responsible for the following HR functions	Name	Job Title	Email Address									2. For the following financial years, please provide the following information	2015/16	2016/17	2a. What is the organisations total gross pay costs		
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2. For the following financial years, please provide the following information	2015/16	2016/17																	
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2b. What is the organisations total pay costs on your permanent workforce		
2c. How much did the organisation spend on contingent (non-permanent) or temporary workers (this includes any temporary or contract workers such as agency workers, casual workers, temps, self-employed workers / contractors, Inc. PSCs, umbrella companies, and all types of short and long term contractors)		

3. For the following financial years, please provide the following information, providing the figures as the number of employees & full time equivalents (FTE)	2015/16	2016/17
How many permanent workers did the organisation employ:		
3a. Number of Employees		
3b. Full Time Equivalent (FTE)		
"On average, how many contingent (non-permanent) or temporary workers has the organisation engaged with:		
(this includes any temporary or contract workers such as agency workers, casual workers, temps, self-employed workers / contractors, Inc. PSCs, umbrella companies, and all types of short and long term contractors) "		
3c. Number of Employees		
3d. Full Time Equivalent (FTE)		

4. Please list the software the organisation uses for the following HR functions	
4a. HR	
"4b. Payroll	
(if the organisation uses multiple payroll software for different workers/payroll frequencies i.e. substantive, agency/weekly, monthly payroll - please list all)"	
4c. Recruitment	
4d. HR/Workforce Analytics	
4e. Other employee/HR related systems for tracking or planning	

5. Please state which Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software the organisation utilises e.g. Oracle, SAP, PeopleSoft, Workday	
6. Does the organisation have a HR data warehouse?	

Response

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

The information requested is as follows:

1. *Please provide the following information for the people responsible for the following HR functions: Name; Job Title; Email Address*

The person responsible for the following HR functions is as follows:

Function	Name	Job Title	Email Address
1a. Overall HR	Mark Byers	Head of Business Delivery Group	mark.byers@nio.gov.uk
1b. HR/Workforce Planning	Mark Byers	Head of Business Delivery Group	mark.byers@nio.gov.uk

2. *For the following financial years, please provide the following information*
 - (a) *What is the organisations total gross pay costs (all expenditure on staff)*
 - (b) *What is the organisations total pay costs on your permanent workforce (staff that hold permanent contracts only)*
 - (c) *How much did the organisation spend on contingent (non-permanent) or temporary workers (this includes any temporary or contract workers such as agency workers, casual workers, temps, self-employed workers / contractors, Inc. PSCs, umbrella companies, and all types of short and long term contractors)*
3. *For the following financial years - 2015-16 and 2016-17 - please provide the following information, providing the figures as the number of employees & full time equivalents (FTE)*

How many permanent workers did the organisation employ:

 - (a) *Number of Employees*
 - (b) *Full Time Equivalent (FTE)*

On average, how many contingent (non-permanent) or temporary workers has the organisation engaged with: (this includes any temporary or contract workers such as agency workers, casual workers, temps, self-employed workers / contractors, Inc. PSCs, umbrella companies, and all types of short and long term contractors)

 - (c) *Number of Employees*
 - (d) *Full Time Equivalent (FTE)*

	<p>This information is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA and is contained in the Northern Ireland Office Annual report and Accounts which can be found here and here.</p> <p>4. <i>Please list the software the organisation uses for the following HR functions</i></p> <p>(a) <i>HR</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Payroll (if the organisation uses multiple payroll software for different workers/payroll frequencies i.e. substantive, agency/weekly, monthly payroll - please list all)</i></p> <p>(c) <i>Recruitment</i></p> <p>(d) <i>HR/Workforce Analytics</i></p> <p>(e) <i>Other employee/HR related systems for tracking or planning</i></p> <p>5. <i>Please state which Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software the organisation utilises e.g. Oracle, SAP, PeopleSoft, Workday</i></p> <p>6. <i>Does the organisation have a HR data warehouse?</i></p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office takes HR services from the Ministry of Justice.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/102
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>This request is concerned entirely with cases heard in the Diplock courts as follows:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The total number of cases heard by the Diplock Courts over the period during which such courts were functioning.</i> 2. <i>How many cases were heard within the Diplock Court in each year from commencement to termination of the courts activities.</i> 3. <i>Of the cases heard in each year, how many of those cases resulted in convictions and how many in acquittals.</i> 4. <i>In respect of those matters where there were convictions please identify how many of those were subsequently heard by the Court of Appeal.</i> 5. <i>Of the cases which went to the Court of Appeal following conviction, the number of convictions upheld and those quashed.</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 statistics on convictions for scheduled offences from 1973-1977. However The National Archives (TNA) may hold some information relevant to your request. By way of assistance, we have provided a list of TNA file references below;</p>

- CJ 4/1236 which runs from 10/12/74 to 30/6/76
- CJ 4/1238 which runs from 3/9/75 to 9/12/76
- CJ 4/1337 which runs from 17/10/75 to 22/9/76
- CJ 4/1763 which runs from 26/7/76 to 17/1/77

Alternatively you may wish to direct your enquiry to the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service / Department of Justice for Northern Ireland as they may have additional information.

Following a search of NIO records, a list of prosecutions and convictions for scheduled offences at the Crown Court 'Diplock courts' from 1978-1983 can be found in the table below. Data was collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is prosecuted is included.

Year	Prosecutions	Convictions
1978	956	837
1979	922	844
1980	585	550
1981	598	562
1982	793	744
1983	638	577

We do not hold information in respect of convictions that were subsequently heard by the Court of Appeal. In addition, our record searches have not found information about prosecutions or convictions after 1983.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/103
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request the following:</i></p> <p><i>A list of all visits to Scotland that the Secretary of State for your department has taken in an official capacity in the below years including the following details: the dates of the visit, the purpose of the visit.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2018 (for as many months as currently available) 2. 2017

	<p>3. 2016 4. 2015 5. 2014 6. 2013 7. 2012 8. 2011</p> <p><i>Please note, if providing answers for each of these years triggers the S.12 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act, I would like you to answer the questions in order (1 - 8) until the total number of hours used to work on this request exceeds the number relevant for s.12 exception.</i></p> <p><i>Further, if your Department 'does not hold' information in relation to parts 1 – 8, can you confirm whether this is because no meetings have taken place in that year or for other reasons (e.g. administrative/data retention policies).</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>We publish all meetings and visits undertaken by our ministerial team on a quarterly basis, which can be found at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=northern-ireland-office</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/104
Month Issued	May 2018
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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Can the Northern Ireland Office provide all documentation it has about the possibility of bringing in an independent mediator to oversee the talks to restore power-sharing at Stormont.</i> <i>2. Can the NIO provide all submissions or documentation it has received from political parties or other sources outside the NIO about proposals and suggestions for independent mediators who could come into the process.</i> <i>3. Can the NIO confirm that a list of names was given to the NIO – which included suggestions for independent mediators who could oversee the talks process at Stormont?</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

	<p>I can confirm that the NIO holds information falling within the scope of your request but it is exempt by virtue of section 35(1) (a) of FOIA. Section 35(1) (a) protects information relating to the formulation or development of government policy. The information sought in this case engages this exemption.</p> <p>The exemption at section 35(1) (a) is a qualified exemption so we have given due consideration to whether the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding the information.</p> <p>We recognise there is considerable interest in the political work to restore the Northern Ireland Executive, however although the most recent phase of talks concluded without agreement, the policy to restore devolved government in Northern Ireland is still in development and ongoing. Publishing papers and disclosing detailed information at this stage would undermine the continuing policy development and could prejudice any future talks. As a consequence, we consider that the public interest lies with withholding the information.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/106
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act in relation to correspondence with the Legatum Institute. More specifically I would like the following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Please provide any email communications between NIO officials and Mr Shanker Singham between Jan 1 2017 and the date this request is received.</i> <i>2. Please provide any email communications between NIO officials and Ms Victoria Hewson between Jan 1 2017 and the date this request is received.</i> <i>3. Please provide any email communications between NIO officials and representatives of the Legatum Institute between Jan 1 2017 and the date this request is received.</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 with a reasonable degree of certainty this would require the undertaking of an extensive exercise across the Department to ensure that all NIO e-mail</p>

inboxes and other systems are examined. The time staff time required to conduct such an exercise would exceed 3.5 working days.

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 number 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 reducing the scope of the request to correspondence with one particular individual, and/or to officials within one particular branch or team within the Department.

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, 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/18/107
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<i>Could you please provide the number of occasions the department sent information to the wrong individual or organisation i.e. someone who was not the intended recipient or the person/body the information related to, broken down by year, over the last five years to January 1, 2018.</i>

	<p><i>If possible could the information be from Jan-Dec each year, beginning January 1, 2013, and ending December 31, 2017.</i></p> <p><i>The information should include but not be limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Breaches of the Data Protection Act</i> <i>Incidents raised by the Information Commissioner's Office</i> <i>Incidents flagged to the department by individuals</i> <i>Documentation sent by email or by post</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The NIO can confirm that two incidents of this nature occurred, both in 2017.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/108
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding political donations legislation. Please confirm possession of and provide the following information held by the Northern Ireland office.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sent and received emails on the 3rd and 4th July 2017 by MP James Brokenshire which include the words "political donations" and or "July 2017" and or "retrospective".</i> <i>Any email correspondence between MP James Brokenshire and MP Samuel Wilson on the 3rd and 4th July 2017.</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 that falls within the scope of your request.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/109
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>I am writing to make a request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i></p> <p><i>I'd like to request information on the total number of people working for your Department in July 2016, whether directly employed, on secondment or on loan and the total number of people working for your Department in March 2018, whether directly employed, on secondment or on loan.</i></p>

Response	<p>In response to your request regarding the total number of people working in the Department in July 2016, this information is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA and is contained in the Northern Ireland Office Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17, which can be found here.</p> <p>In response to your request regarding the total number of people working in the Department in March 2018 who are directly employed, on secondment or on loan, the number is 142 members of staff.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/110
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>Please provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Details of meetings, correspondence, telephone calls or other communications between the Northern Ireland Office and representatives of the DUP regarding the advancement of LGBTI rights in Northern Ireland from June 2016 onwards.</i> 2. <i>Where information is held please provide minutes/transcripts/correspondence recording the content of the communication.</i> 3. <i>Details of meetings, correspondence, telephone calls or other communications regarding the advancement of LGBTI rights in Northern Ireland with other groups of individuals from June 2016 onwards.</i> 4. <i>Where information is held please provide minutes/transcripts/correspondence recording the content of the communication.</i> 5. <i>All documents relating to the advancement of LGBTI rights in Northern Ireland from June 2016 onwards.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>Freedom of information 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 a request (section 12(2) FOIA).</p> <p>We have made the decision to decline your request on this basis, as 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 different records individually stored in a number of locations, and given the broad scope of your request we consider this would cost over £600.</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 reconsider the scope of your FOI request and submit a revised and more targeted request by providing</p>

a series of key phrases/terms for us to use in searching our records, a specific list of additional individual groups requested at (3), and/or a shorter timeframe/date range.

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 of the FOIA 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—
 - (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—

	<p>(a) by one person, or</p> <p>(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.</p> <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><u>The appropriate limit</u></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/18/111
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>Can I please have the following information under the Freedom of Information Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How many extra civil service positions have been created to deal with matters relating to Brexit?</i> • <i>How many of those posts are filled?</i> • <i>How many of those posts are unfilled?</i> • <i>How much money has been allocated to pay for these roles?</i> • <i>Has the money come from additional funding specifically allocated to pay for these roles?</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

	<p>EU exit affects a number of work areas across the Department and will therefore encompass a proportion of workload for many staff, the amount of which will vary over time. The Department has recently restructured its approach to the way it handles EU exit work, moving from a central EU exit co-ordinating team of 7 to a position in which core EU exit work is distributed more widely across the whole department.</p> <p>In light of the restructuring it is not possible to give a figure of total funding for Exit related roles. However, the Department secured additional resources from HMT in 2017-18 (£218k) and again for the 2018-19 (£380k) to provide funding for additional requirements.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office currently employs 157 staff in Belfast and London, including those involved in EU Exit work.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/112
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information related to ministerial vehicles which are used for your department.</i></p> <p><i>I would be grateful if you would provide the following;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The number of ministerial vehicles allocated to your department</i> <i>2. The make and model of each vehicle (i.e. Jaguar XF)</i> <i>3. Month and year of first registration for each vehicle</i> <i>4. Fuel type for each vehicle</i> <i>5. CO2 emissions as referenced on the V5c for each vehicle</i> <i>6. Planned date of replacement for each vehicle</i> <i>7. The number of EV charging points at the departments location(s)</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>No ministerial vehicles are allocated to the Northern Ireland Office. The NIO have no EV Charging points.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/113
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<i>Please can you process the following questions as a freedom of information request:</i>

	<p>A) <i>How many non-disclosure agreements has the authority agreed in each of the calendar years of 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017? Please provide individual figures per year. Please also provide reasons for the agreements being agreed where possible (e.g. 2 whistleblower complaints).</i></p> <p><i>Please provide the total number of NDAs but also the different types of NDA agreements (e.g. whistleblower complaint/ / sexual harassment complaint etc.). Please make clear if the agreements concern commercial companies rather than employees.</i></p> <p>B) <i>Please provide the total amount of financial compensation awarded as part of these agreements for the entirety of this period in £.</i></p>
Response	<p>I can advise that no non-disclosure agreements were signed in the years 2015, 2016 and 2017.</p> <p>In respect of 2014 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>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/114
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>Please provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Details of meetings, correspondence, telephone calls or other communications between the Northern Ireland Office and representatives of the DUP regarding the advancement of LGBTI rights in Northern Ireland from June 2017 onwards.</i> <i>2. Where information is held please provide minutes/transcripts/correspondence recording the content of the communication.</i> <i>3. Details of meetings, correspondence, telephone calls or other communications regarding the advancement of LGBTI rights in Northern Ireland with other groups of individuals from June 2017 onwards.</i> <i>4. Where information is held please provide minutes/transcripts/correspondence recording the content of the communication.</i> <i>5. All documents relating to the advancement of LGBTI rights in Northern Ireland from June 2017 onwards.</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Freedom of information 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 a request (section 12(2) FOIA).

We have made the decision to decline your request on this basis, as 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 different records individually stored in a number of locations, and given the broad scope of your request we consider this would cost over £600.

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 reconsider the scope of your FOI request and submit a revised and more targeted request by providing a series of key phrases/terms for us to use in searching our records, a specific list of additional individual groups requested at (3), and/or a shorter timeframe/date range.

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 of the FOIA 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>.

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 - (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.
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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/18/115
Month Issued	May 2018

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"> 1. <i>What is the cost of the food and drink served at meetings concerning the power-sharing talks between January 2017 and 2018?</i> 2. <i>What is the breakdown of the food and drink served at these meetings (tea, biscuits, sandwiches, alcohol – and types of alcohol etc?)</i> 3. <i>How many meetings were held concerning power-sharing between January 2017 and February 2018?</i> 4. <i>Who catered these meetings and what was the cost of the catering?"</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The FOIA 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 focusing your request on a narrower range of issues and/or a shorter timescale.</p> <p>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>

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/18/116
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Is there a record of anyone formally labelled as Junk by NIO ever at any time getting a government job, even a job at the most menial of levels?</i> <i>Is there a record of anyone formally labelled as Junk by NIO ever at any time winning an Appeal of any sort, on even the most menial of topics?</i> <i>If so, can we please have details?</i> <p><i>Names are NOT of course required, just numbers and other details.</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/18/117
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>We need to establish why a decision was taken to impose Performance Related Pay (PRP) on NI when it was so firmly rejected in Wales.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I would be grateful please for a copy of any papers that might shed light on the topic?</i> <i>Could I please have copies of any consultations that there may have been with HSE and the Equality Commission? Could I please have a copy of any Risk Assessments or Equality Impact Assessments that may have been undertaken either prior to the imposition of PRP or in any review of its operation?</i>

	3. <i>How many such reviews were undertaken before a decision was made to scrap PRP entirely as just unacceptable, unsafe and unworkable in the traditional N Ireland Note and File Only context?</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 in relation to performance related pay in Northern Ireland. This is a matter for the Northern Ireland Civil Service. You may wish to contact them for information on this subject. You can email them at: dof.enquiries@finance-ni.gov.uk</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/118
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>Under FOI legislation, please provide me with copies of all typed/written external and internal correspondence (emails, memorandums, letters etc.) since 1st January 2018 which relate to Troubles legacy issues.</i></p> <p><i>Please also provide me with all the minutes from every NIO meeting in which Troubles Legacy issues were mentioned since 1st January 2018.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>Section 12 under FOIA 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>We do hold information created since 1 January 2018 of the type you have requested relating to "Troubles legacy issues". However, "Troubles legacy issues" is capable of covering a wide range of matters and to comply with the request officials would be required to open and read a large number of records individually to determine what information might be relevant to your request. The time taken to do this would result in the cost limit referred to above being exceeded.</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 provide a series of key phrases for us to search for information on or, for example, a specific aspect of "Troubles legacy issues" about which you wish to request information and/ or a shorter time frame.</p>

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, 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

	<p><u>The appropriate limit</u></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/18/119
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>I'd like to know the following please, under the freedom of information act, regarding data scientists in your organisation.</i></p> <p><i>1) How many staff do you employ in the role of 'data scientists' or in a significant data management role and on average how much is the annual total salary bill for these members of staff per financial year?</i></p> <p><i>2) Please break this down by financial year, for the last three years</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The NIO does not employ any staff in the role of "data scientists" or in a significant data management role.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/120
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>Under the provisions of the FOI Act 2000, could you please provide all correspondence between the NIO and the Government of the Irish Republic relating to the visit of Mr Leo Varadkar to Northern Ireland on Monday 30th April 2018?</i></p>
Response	<p>I can confirm that we have only one recorded exchange which relates to your request. However, after careful consideration we have decided that the information is exempt from disclosure under section 27 of FOIA – International Relations.</p>

	<p>The information held is exempt under section 27(1a), meaning that disclosure of this would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and any other state.</p> <p>Section 27(1a) is a qualified exemption and as such we have considered whether the balance would lie in favour of the public interest for us to provide you with the information. I have outlined our public interest considerations below:</p> <p><u>Public Interest Considerations in Favour of Disclosure</u> There is a public interest in transparency and accountability to promote public understanding in relation to the work between the UK Government and that of other countries.</p> <p><u>Public Interest Considerations in Favour of Non-Disclosure</u> Officials from the Government of another state must be able to exchange information with their UK Government counterparts without fear of such information being disclosed. If such information were to be disclosed, there would be an impact on the frankness or candour with which they may share information in the future. This would adversely affect the quality of communication between countries and restrict the ability of the UK Government to formulate future policy. It could also have a negative impact on the quality and nature of relationships between UK Government officials and representatives of other states.</p> <p>As a result we consider the public interest balance lies in withholding the information under section 27 (1a) of the Act.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/122
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>How many extra staff (temporary or permanent) has your department hired or do you plan to hire to help deal with Brexit between 2016 and 2023?</i> 2. <i>What is your department's annual breakdown of those hired (temporary or permanent) or expected hiring to help deal with Brexit between 2016 and 2023?</i> 3. <i>How many staff does your department currently employ, excluding those you have hired to help deal with Brexit?</i> 4. <i>How much additional spending has your department set aside to deal with Brexit between 2016 and 2023?</i> 5. <i>What is the annual breakdown of that extra spending your department has set aside to deal with Brexit between 2016 and 2023?</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

	<p>EU exit affects a number of work areas across the Department and will therefore encompass a proportion of workload for many staff, the amount of which will vary over time. The Department has recently restructured its approach to the way it handles EU exit work, moving from a central EU exit co-ordinating team of 7 to a position in which core EU exit work is distributed more widely across the whole department.</p> <p>In light of the restructuring it is not possible to give a figure of total funding for Exit related roles. However, the Department secured additional resources from HMT in 2017-18 (£218k) and again for the 2018-19 (£380k) to provide funding for additional requirements.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office currently employs 157 staff in Belfast and London, including those involved in EU Exit work.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/133
Month Issued	May 2018
Request	<p><i>This is in regards to your guidance, defined as 'a collection of best-practice operational procedures to deliver safe, compliant and consistent outcomes from a diversified workforce.' The questions I'd like answers to are:</i></p> <p><i>Incidents and Discipline</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have you had a reported incident that has fallen foul of your guidance in the last three years? If so, how many?</i> • <i>How many legal actions have been taken against you due to falling short of guidance guidelines?</i> • <i>Has anyone been disciplined or fired due to an issue with guidance in the last three years?</i> <p><i>Training</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How often do you undertake any education or training around guidance?</i> <p><i>Updating and Dissemination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How often are guidance standards updated?</i> • <i>When was the last root and branch review of your guidance?</i> <p><i>Storage and accessibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In what format and programme do you hold the guidance?</i> • <i>In what format and programme do staff access the guidance?</i> • <i>Can you access guidance on mobile devices?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If so, can guidance be accessed while offline?</i> <p>Audit and Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can your workforce audit their compliance to central standards and so identify any shortfalls?</i> • <i>Do you have the capability to audit delivery standards against current guidance?</i> <p>Quantitative measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Does your organisation have:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Up to 50,000 pages</i> - <i>50,000 - 100,000 pages</i> - <i>100,000 pages plus pages of guidance?</i>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p> <p>A number of your questions can be considered to be outside of the FOI Act insofar as they are not requesting “recorded information”. We have provided an explanatory narrative where no recorded information exists or we are unable to answer your specific questions.</p> <p>Incidents and Discipline</p> <p>Information on failings within our internal system of controls is published in our Annual Report & Accounts on www.GOV.UK. No legal or disciplinary action has been taken in respect of internal failings within the last three years.</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Staff can access all Departmental guidance and policies via the Intranet and can avail of a range of training options as and when required. No recorded information is held in respect of this question.</p> <p>Updating and Dissemination</p> <p>All corporate policies and guidance are reviewed and updated as required and in line with any associated statutory requirements. No information is held in respect of root and branch reviews of guidance.</p> <p>Storage and accessibility</p> <p>All guidance is available electronically, via the NIO Intranet. It can be accessed via laptops and is downloadable. It cannot be accessed offline, via iPads or Mobile phones.</p>

	<p>Audit and Review The Department's Audit and Risk Committee oversees and monitors compliance with required standards and requirements across the Department. The Committee is supported in its work by internal and external auditors.</p> <p>Quantitative measures No recorded information is held in regard to the number of pages of guidance.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/095
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>Could you look into this for me under the Freedom of Information Act?</i></p> <p><i>CJ 4/2840 - Loyalist paramilitaries: general information and articles</i></p> <p><i>This document has been 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. Please contact the Northern Ireland Office to request a review of this document.</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> <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.</p> <p>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</p>

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>.

We are also 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.

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) (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 wellbeing 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.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/121
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<i>Under Freedom of Information Act I would like to request the following documents :</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>All documents (electronic & hard copy) relating to the Brexit Secretary's visit to Northern Ireland on April 23rd.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This should include – but not limited to - diary entries / briefing documents /schedules / draft schedules / any email invites.</i> • <i>I would also like all correspondence relating to who was informed of the visit – and any discussion about this.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>I can confirm that we hold a number of records which relate to your request for documents pertaining to the organisation of the visit to Northern Ireland by the Secretary of State on 23 April 2018. Below is a list of the records we are releasing to you as a separate attachment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit programme • E-mail correspondence <p>These records have been partially redacted, where some of the information contained within them falls under the exemptions listed in the FOIA. Information has been redacted to comply with the following sections of the FOIA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 22 - intended for future publication 2. Section 38(1)(b) - Health and safety - Information that would be likely to endanger the safety of any individual; and 3. Section 40(2) - Personal information. <p>We are not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication under section 22. In line with the terms of this exemption we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, we have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.</p> <p>The exemption under section 38 is a qualified exemption so due consideration has been given to whether the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding the information. The information engaging this exemption refers to procedures relating to access to Stormont House. We consider that the potential compromise to the safety of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, staff and visitors to Stormont House outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information.</p> <p>We hold a number of other records which are fully exempt from disclosure by virtue of sections 35(1) (a), 35(1) (d) and 41(1) (a) (b) of the FOIA. The exemptions at section 35(1) (a) and 35(1) (d) are qualified exemptions so we have given due consideration to whether the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding the information.</p>

	<p>Section 35(1) (a) protects information relating to the formulation or development of government policy. In this case, we recognise that there is considerable interest in the visit by the Secretary of State. However, we consider that the public interest test is met in not publishing any information pertaining to discussions of underlying policy issues which remain under development or subject to negotiations.</p> <p>Section 35(1) (d) protects information relating to the operation of any ministerial private office. A significant part of the information sought engages this exemption. In this case, we recognise that there is considerable interest in the visit by the Secretary of State. However, we consider that publishing the information could undermine the ability of Private Office to focus on managing ministerial work efficiently, including the ministerial diary. Furthermore, part of the information relates to details of ministerial travel and security arrangements. There are relevant concerns that the disclosure of this information might undermine the security of the Minister and make future travel arrangements and diary management more difficult. As a consequence, we consider that the public interest lies with withholding the information.</p> <p>Section 41(1) (a) (b) protects information which was obtained in confidence. One document in scope engages this exemption.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/124
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>I would like to request the following information under The Freedom of Information Act and The Environmental Information Regulations.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that I am only interested in information generated between 1 November 2017 and the present day.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that the reference to Secretary of State should include the Secretary of State as well as his/her private office.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that the reference to the Prince of Wales should include the Prince himself and his private office.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. During the aforementioned period did the department seek Prince's consent for any policy or piece of legislation which could have implications for either the Duke of Cornwall and or the Duchy of Cornwall Estate.</i> <i>2. If the answer is yes can you please supply copies of any correspondence and communications (including emails) written by the Secretary of State to the Prince of Wales which specifically relates to the issue of Prince's consent.</i> <i>3. During the aforementioned period did the Prince of Wales write to the Secretary of State about matters relating to the issue of Prince's Consent. If the answer is yes can you please supply copies of this correspondence and communications including emails.</i>

	<p>4. <i>During the aforementioned period did either The Duchy of Cornwall or its legal advisers at Farrer & Co write to the Secretary of State about matters to do with Prince's consent. If the answer is yes can you please provide copies of this correspondence and communication including emails.</i></p> <p>5. <i>During the aforementioned period did The Secretary of State write to either the Duchy of Cornwall or its legal advisers Farrer & Co about matters to do with Prince's consent. If the answer is yes can you please provide copies of this correspondence and communication including emails.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>We have undertaken a search of our records and I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/125
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 [RIPA] in the last 3 years.</i></p> <p><i>NB: This refers only to cases where the Department has decided to use RIPA itself -- not cases where external bodies, such as the police, have made RIPA requests.</i></p> <p><i>Could you please tell me:</i></p> <p><i>1.) How many members of staff (including former members of staff) has the Department investigated using RIPA powers? Please break this down by year.</i></p> <p><i>2.) What type of investigation was done under RIPA? E.g. copies of emails, internet history, etc?</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 does not hold any information relating to your request.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/126
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, and refers to the Legatum Institute Foundation.</i>

Please provide any email correspondence from 1 April 2017 to the date that this request is received between Victoria Hewison, formerly Senior Counsel to our Special Trade Commission and now of the Institute for Economic Affairs, and each of the following current and former NIO ministers and staff.

- *James Brokenshire*
- *Karen Bradley*
- *Shailesh Vara*
- *Chloe Smith*
- *Lord Dunlop*
- *Jonathan Spencer*

As part of this request, please include any email correspondence sent on behalf of either Hewison or of any of the individuals listed above (e.g. by a secretary or PA). Please provide any attachments or documents that is included in any correspondence.

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.

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/18/127
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, and refers to the Democratic Unionist Party and the Northern Ireland position paper published in summer 2017. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northern-ireland-and-ireland-a-position-paper.</i></p> <p><i>More specifically I would like the following information:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Please provide any email communications between Democratic Unionist Party members or DUP elected representatives that makes reference to the Northern Ireland position paper, between June 1 2017 and August 31 2017 and the following NIO ministers and staff:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>James Brokenshire</i> • <i>Chloe Smith</i> • <i>Lord Dunlop</i> <p><i>As part of this request, please include any email correspondence sent on behalf of any of the individuals listed above (e.g. by a secretary or PA). Please provide any attachments or documents that is included in any correspondence.</i></p>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

	We have conducted a search of our records and have found one email within the scope of your request. The email is attached. The Northern Ireland Office issued embargoed copies of the Northern Ireland Position paper to all five main parties.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/128
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>Under Freedom of Information legislation, please provide me with copies of all typed/written external and internal correspondence (emails, memorandums, letters etc.), from the 1st January 2017 onwards, which relate to Kincora Boys' Home.</i></p> <p><i>Please also provide me with minutes from every meeting in which Kincora Boys' Home was mentioned during this time.</i></p> <p><i>If this time period is too long to comply with cost and time exemptions, please provide me with the longest time period as is possible, with regards to the legislation.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>Section 12 under FOIA 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 number 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 number 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 provide a series of key phrases for us to search and/ or a shorter time frame and/or focus on a specific team within the Department.</p>

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, 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

	<p><u>The appropriate limit</u></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.
FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/129
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following:</i></p> <p><i>(a) The number of Troubles related killings that will be transferred to the Historical Investigations Unit (HIU) as part of the legacy mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>(b) The breakdown of the HIU caseload as attributed to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(i) Republican proscribed groups</i> <i>(ii) Loyalist proscribed groups</i> <i>(iii) UK military personnel</i> <i>(iv) RUC & PSNI</i> <i>(v) Other</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). While we do not hold the specific information you have requested, we do hold some information related to your request.</p> <p>Based on current estimates, the number of Troubles-related killings that might transfer to the Historical Investigations Unit (HIU) for investigation would be around 1,450 cases relating to over 1,700 deaths. This is based on current estimates of the number of cases to transfer from the PSNI's Legacy Investigation Branch (LIB) and from the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI). The final number to transfer will depend upon progress made by LIB and OPONI prior to the establishment of the HIU.</p>

	We do not hold the breakdown of information you have requested.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/130
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<i>I'd like to make a FOI request for a copy of the report and the CCTV survey carried out at Ashton Park, Finaghy with regards to the ongoing flooding issues. A paper copy or email is fine.</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The NIO does not hold any information within the scope of this request.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/131
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<i>I would like some information on attempted cyber-attacks upon your organisation over the last three financial years. Please could you list the total number of recorded attacks, broken down by year and by type of attack e.g. malware, denial-of-service, phishing etc. e.g. FY 17-18 1,000 malware, 500 phishing, 500 Denial-of-service. Please detail whether any of these attacks successful or blocked.</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). In respect of your questions The Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of 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. Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the government holds particular information. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department's IT systems. In this case we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information, which may have been disclosed in an unauthorised manner, is held.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/132
Month Issued	June 2018

Request	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>How much money is spent on data integration and data quality tools each year?</i> 2. <i>What is the department's policy on using Open Source tools?</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/18/134
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>I wish to request information relating to the organisation's energy management system. I wish to request this information under the freedom of information act.</i></p> <p><i>Please find my request below, which relates to the organisation's contract relating to their energy management system. Not all organisations have energy management system and if the organisation does not have one please ignore the contractual part of my request (1-6) and concentrate on questions 7-12.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The supplier who provides the software to the organisation?</i> 2. <i>The cost associated with the software. Please provide me with the annual spend.</i> 3. <i>What is the brand of the software?</i> 4. <i>What is the duration of the contract?</i> 5. <i>When does this contract expires?</i> 6. <i>When does the organisation plan to review this contract?</i> 7. <i>Can you please provide me with the contract description of the services provided under the agreement with the supplier? This also includes potential extensions and support and maintenance services.</i> 8. <i>What is the organisation's annual energy spend for the following:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Electricity</i> b. <i>Gas</i> c. <i>Water</i> 9. <i>What is the total number of meter points for Electricity for:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Non Half Hourly (NHH) meter points</i> b. <i>Half Hourly (HH) meter points</i>

	<p>10. What is the total number of Gas meter points? 11. What is the total number of Water meter points? 12. What is the total number of meter points for specialist gases and liquids? 13. Can you please provide me with the contact details of the key person responsible for this contract or around energy management. 14. Can you please send me the organisations' energy management strategy/plan that covers 2018?</p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office occupies 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 any energy management systems and therefore the NIO does not hold this information in relation to questions 1-7.</p> <p>In relation to question 8, Stormont House's energy charges from our Landlord for year 17/18 were; Electricity - £88,642, Gas - £9,029. The NIO are not billed for water charges. The energy Bill's relating to 1 Horse Guards Road form part of the annual service charge and therefore NIO do not hold this information.</p> <p>In relation to Questions 9. NIO does not hold this information.</p> <p>In relation to Question 10. Stormont House location has 2 Gas meter points. We do not hold the information for our London Location.</p> <p>In relation to Question 11. Stormont House does not have any water meter points. We do not hold the information for our London Location.</p> <p>In relation to Question 12. Stormont House does not have any meter points for specialist gases and liquids. We do not hold the information for our London Location.</p> <p>In relation to Question 13/14. Stormont House is managed by our Landlord – Department of Finance for Northern Ireland. 1 Horse Guards Road, London is managed by our Landlord - HM Treasury.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/135
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<i>I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act:</i>

1. *Based on the latest figures:*
 - (a) *How many staff are directly employed by the Department?*
 - (b) *Please provide a breakdown of these figures by staff grade and age bracket (i.e. showing how many people of different ages are in each staff grade)*
2. *For the period July 2016 - April 2018, please provide a breakdown of the total number of direct staff who have left the Department. This should include the number of staff who have:*
 - (a) *retired*
 - (b) *been sacked*
 - (c) *been made redundant*
 - (d) *been on secondment to somewhere external to the Department*
 - (e) *all other regular resignations (including those who have left the Civil Service, or got jobs in a different Department etc)*

NB: the statistics should not cover maternity/paternity leave, long-term sick leave or sabbatical leave

Response

In response to question 1(a), the number of staff who are directly employed by the department is 114.

In response to question 1(b), please see the information contained in the table below, the age ranges are those used for reporting purposes to the Cabinet Office:

Numbers by Grade within the Age Brackets									
	16-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-49 years	50-54 years	54-59 years	60-64 years
SCS	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
Band A	5<	5	7	8	5<	7	5<	5<	5<
Band B	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	5<	5<
Band C	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	5<	5<	5<
Band D	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	5<
Band E	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<

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.

	<p>In response to question 2 c and 2 e during the period from July 2016 to April 2018, there have been no staff redundancies and 17 members of staff have resigned, including those who have left the Civil Service or have moved to other government departments.</p> <p>In response to question 2 a, b and d, 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> <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>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/136						
Month Issued	June 2018						
Request	<p><i>I am writing to make a request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i></p> <p><i>I'd like to request information on your Department's total remuneration to civil servants, (whether directly employed, on secondment or on loan) was for work in the month June 2016, and your Department's total remuneration to civil servants, (whether directly employed, on secondment or on loan) was for work in the month March 2018.</i></p>						
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="510 991 1019 1066"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>June 2016</th> <th>March 2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>454,096.94</td> <td>602,219.30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		June 2016	March 2018	Total	454,096.94	602,219.30
	June 2016	March 2018					
Total	454,096.94	602,219.30					

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/137
Month Issued	June 2018
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 send me:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Any information the Department holds on polling re a NI border poll.</i> • <i>Any documents relation to the commissioning, payment, or analysis of a NI border poll</i> • <i>Any briefings provided to the Secretary of State (or other ministers) on a border poll. (including draft briefings)</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>Section 12 under FOIA 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 number 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 number 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 provide a series of key phrases for us to search and/ or a shorter time frame.</p> <p>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>

- (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.
- 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extracting the information from the document containing it.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/138
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>Please could you supply me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. How many former employees have signed a non-disclosure agreement or a compromise agreement upon leaving the department over the last five years? I would like this information broken down by year.</i> <i>2. What was the total financial cost of these agreements (by year)?</i> <i>3. How many of the agreements contained confidentiality clauses?</i> <i>4. Did any of these agreements prevent former employees publicly raising concerns?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</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, as the number of non-disclosure agreements in the last five years is fewer than five, 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>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/139
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>I wish to obtain the following information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. I wish to know:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The total number of days on which Karen Bradley has been present in Northern Ireland, since taking office as the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>The Secretary of State has spent 33 days in Northern Ireland since being appointed as Secretary of State. This is alongside Parliamentary and Constituency commitments.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/140
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Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>I wish to obtain the following information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I wish to obtain any internal documentation, briefings or correspondence relating to a border poll or referendum on Northern Ireland reuniting with the Republic. My request relates to the time period of September 2017 to the present.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>Section 12 under FOIA 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 number 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 number 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 provide a series of key phrases for us to search and/ or a shorter time frame.</p> <p>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>

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.
- 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/18/141
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<i>Please send to me any record of evidence which alleges the Conservative Party won an outright majority of MPs at the June 8th 2017 United Kingdom general election.</i>
Response	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.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/142
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The number of civil servants working for your department in Scotland;</i> <i>2. The number of these civil servants who are paid below the real living wage;</i> <i>3. The number of civil servants in Scotland made compulsorily redundant since 2010 in your department.</i> <p><i>Note: the real living wage in Scotland is £8.75 an hour. Further information on it can be found here:</i> http://scottishlivingwage.org/.</p>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Northern Ireland Office does not have any Civil Servants working for it in Scotland; therefore, none are paid below the real living wage in Scotland. No Civil Servants in the NIO working in Scotland have been made compulsorily redundant since 2010.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/143
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<i>Under Freedom of Information, please provide me with the following:</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Copies of all documents held by the department relating to the issue of introducing direct rule to Northern Ireland over the past 12 months. This could be, but is not limited to, all documents, including internal and external correspondence (ministerial and staff), reports, letters, briefings, business cases, minutes of meetings, emails and memos.</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>I can confirm that the NIO holds information falling within the scope of your request but it is exempt by virtue of section 35(1) (a) of FOIA. Section 35(1) (a) protects information relating to the formulation or development of government policy. The information sought in this case engages this exemption.</p> <p>The exemption at section 35(1) (a) is a qualified exemption so we have given due consideration to whether the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding the information.</p> <p>In this case, we recognise that there is considerable interest in the ongoing efforts to restore the Northern Ireland Executive. The Secretary of State remains committed to providing good governance and political stability in Northern Ireland whilst working towards the earliest possible restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive: these efforts are ongoing. Publishing information on any potential suspension of devolution could prejudice efforts to restore the Northern Ireland Executive, and as a consequence, we consider that the public interest lies with withholding the information.</p> <p>Some of the information is also exempt by virtue of section 28(1) of FOIA. Section 28(1) protects information that may affect relations within the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The exemption at section 28(1) is a qualified exemption so we have given due consideration to whether the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding the information.</p> <p>In this case, as above we recognise that there is considerable interest in the ongoing efforts to restore the Northern Ireland Executive. However it also remains the case that publishing information on any potential suspension of devolution could prejudice efforts to restore the Northern Ireland Executive, It is likely that release of the information might inhibit officials providing frank and candid advice because of the risk of subsequent disclosure, this is a particularly high risk in this case as the process is ongoing and as a consequence, we consider that the public interest lies with withholding the information.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/144
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, and refers to the Legatum Institute Foundation.</i>

	<p>Please provide any email correspondence from 1 April 2017 to the date that this request is received between Shanker Singham, formerly Senior Counsel to our Special Trade Commission and now of the Institute for Economic Affairs, and each of the following current and former NIO ministers and staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Brokenshire • Karen Bradley • Shailesh Vara • Chloe Smith • Lord Dunlop • Jonathan Spencer <p>As part of this request, please include any email correspondence sent on behalf of either Singham or of any of the individuals listed above (e.g. by a secretary or PA).</p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>We have undertaken a search of our records and I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/145
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<i>I am using my right to the Freedom of Information act to ask how much the MLA's of Northern Ireland have been paid in total by the government for their role as an MLA up to the present day (24th May 2018). This information does not include money earned outside of this role. This money will also include an addition roles within the government that these politicians have (MEP, local councillor etc) and I would like these to be broken down to their individual roles</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. The FOI Team at the Northern Ireland Assembly may be in a position to provide you with this information; they can be contacted at the following email address foi@niassembly.gov.uk</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/146
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Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>How many employer's liability claims did the Northern Ireland Office settle in the most recent financial year?</i> 2. <i>What was the total in-year expenditure on employer's liability claims inclusive of damages and other costs, such as claimants' legal costs and medical fees?</i>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>We have responded to your information request as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Department did not settle any employer's liability claims in the most recent financial year. 2. Not applicable.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/147
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>Please provide a monthly breakdown showing the total number of days Sick Leave which were taken by staff in the Department. This should date from April 2015 to March 2018 (i.e. the last three financial years).</i> (b) <i>If known, for each month please also state how many of the total Sick Leave days were due to stress or other mental health issues.</i> 2. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>Please provide a monthly breakdown showing the average number of days Sick Leave taken per staff member (i.e. total sick days divided by total staff). This should date from April 2015 to March 2018.</i> (b) <i>If known, for each month please also state the average number of days Sick Leave taken per staff member which were due to stress or other mental health issues.</i> 3. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>Does the Department have any services to help staff suffering from stress or other mental health issues?</i> (b) <i>If so, please provide a monthly breakdown showing how many staff have either signed up or received help from these services. This should date from April 2015 to March 2018. If a monthly breakdown is not available, an annual one will be ok.</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

1 a) The number of sick days registered with the department for each month of each year is detailed in the table below and relates to the actual number of working days lost as this is how we record them. The most up to date figure held is up to 31 December 2017:

Month	Number of Actual Working Days Lost -01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016	Number of Actual Working Days Lost -01/04/2016 - 31/03/2017	Number of Actual Working Days Lost - 01/04/2017 - 31/12/2017
April	29	36	41
May	2	28	47
June	0	47	29
July	39	52	28
August	12	53	11
September	9	22	5
October	9	13	9
November	13	78	10
December	3	62	13
January	10	58	
February	5	56	
March	15	46	

1 b) In response to your question in terms of the number of sick days due to stress or other mental health issues; this is recorded under the heading of "Mental Disorders". A wide range of conditions are encapsulated under the term "Mental Disorders" including conditions such as stress, anxiety, depression, mood-affective disorders, disorders of personality and behaviour and schizophrenia. The table below details the number of sick days registered under Mental Disorders, which includes stress, broken down into years and months.

Month	Number of Actual Working Days Lost 01/04/2015 - 1/03/2016	Number of Actual Working Days Lost 01/04/2016 - 1/03/2017	Number of Actual Working Days Lost - 1/04/2017-31/12/2017
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April	0	21	20
May	0	25	22
June	0	44	7
July	12	42	0
August	0	23	0
September	0	0	0
October	0	6	0
November	0	62	0
December	0	40	0
January	0	22	
February	0	20	
March	9	23	

2 a) In response to your question to provide a monthly breakdown showing the *average* number of days Sick Leave taken per staff member (i.e. total sick days divided by total staff) please see table below.

Month	Monthly breakdown of Average Working Days Lost based on 104 staff 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016	Monthly breakdown of Average Working Days Lost based on 97 staff 01/04/2016 - 31/03/2017	Monthly breakdown of Average Working Days Lost based on 104 staff 01/04/2017 - 1/12/2017
April	0.28	0.37	0.39
May	0.02	0.29	0.45
June	0	0.48	0.28
July	0.38	0.54	0.27
August	0.12	0.51	0.11
September	0.09	0.23	0.05
October	0.09	0.13	0.09

November	0.13	0.80	0.10
December	0.03	0.64	0.13
January	0.10	0.60	
February	0.05	0.58	
March	0.14	0.47	

2 b) In response to your question, If known, for each month please also state the *average* number of days Sick Leave taken per staff member which were due to stress or other mental health issues please see table below.

Month	Monthly breakdown of Average Working Days Lost based on 104 staff 01/04/2015 - 31/03/2016	Monthly breakdown of Average Working Days Lost based on 97 staff 01/04/2016 - 31/03/2017	Monthly breakdown of Average Working Days Lost based on 104 staff 01/04/2017 - 1/12/2017
April	0	0.22	0.19
May	0	0.26	0.21
June	0	0.45	0.07
July	0.12	0.43	0
August	0	0.24	0
September	0	0	0
October	0	0.06	0
November	0	0.64	0
December	0	0.41	0
January	0	0.23	
February	0	0.21	
March	0.09	0.24	

3 a) In response to your question whether the Department has any services to help staff suffering from stress or other mental health issues I can advise as follows:

	<p>The following support is in place for employees suffering due to stress or other mental health conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent Employee Assistance Provision that provides confidential counselling sessions for employees, 24 hour telephone support, coaching for managers, mediation and group counselling; • Access to an internet Wellbeing Zone which contains wellbeing advice, fact sheets and videos on managing stress, healthy eating and healthy lifestyle choices. This is also part of our Employee Assistance Provision; • An Occupational Health provider that offers medical advice for managers supporting employees with mental health issues; • An attendance management system that is aligned with our wellbeing strategy and encourages proactive interventions for employees with mental health issues including prompt Occupational Health referrals with a view to ensuring that supportive measures and reasonable adjustments are identified and implemented promptly; • An individual Stress Assessment process; and • Toolkits for managers which recognise the links between musculoskeletal illnesses and mental health conditions • Wellbeing pages on the departmental Intranet in October 2017 signposting resources to support wellbeing • A Wellbeing App available to all staff to support mental wellbeing <p>3 b) In response to your question to provide a monthly breakdown showing how many staff have either signed up or received help from these services the Department does not hold information relating to who has accessed these services as they are offered on a confidential basis.</p>
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/148
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, information relating to the ConsultancyOne framework agreement. I would like to receive a list of all those projects that your department has commissioned to date under the ConsultancyOne framework agreement (i.e. RM1502: http://ccs-agreements.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/contracts/rm1502).</i></p> <p><i>The following information is required:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Title of project.</i> <i>2. Date commissioned (month and year is sufficient).</i> <i>3. Total value of the project (also known as total contract fee), i.e. the total financial value of each project. If this is not available, I will be happy to receive the sum of all invoices submitted to date for each project.</i> <i>4. Contractor appointed.</i>

	<p><i>In responding to this request, I am happy for you to redact (a) any projects which relate to national security; (b) any projects that have been commissioned for less than 3 months. I am also happy to receive (3) total value of the project in £20k fee ranges, e.g. less than £20k, £20k to £40k etc.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that this information is NOT currently published on Contracts Finder in a consistent or identifiable way.</i></p>
Response	<p>Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>To date the Northern Ireland Office has not commissioned projects under the Consultancy One framework agreement.</p>

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/149
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>Following from the publication of the report by Westminster's Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, I note that the Prime Minister reports that meetings to discuss Northern Ireland's interests in Brexit have been taking place and involve Northern Ireland officials. This was referred to by the Prime Minister in her letter to the Committee dated 22 February 2018.</i></p> <p><i>I would be grateful, by way of a freedom of information request, that the NIO publish details of all meetings held in which the Prime Minister is referring to. Including information on the individuals involved at the meetings, the frequency of the meetings and matters discussed. I would also ask for a copy of all of the minutes to these meetings.</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.</p> <p>As the Prime Minister said there has been engagement between officials in the Northern Ireland Civil Service and their counterparts in UK Government Departments on a number of issues, of which Northern Ireland's interests in Brexit is a part. To comply with the request officials would be required to locate, analyse and extract a large number of records.</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. For example by focusing the request to a particular forum or subject matter.

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

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.

	<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><u>The appropriate limit</u></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/18/151
Month Issued	June 2018
Request	<p><i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to know the following information about digital and social media marketing campaigns administered by the department in the last 12 months. This could include information on, but not limited to, activities the department has undertaken involving Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Please supply copies of all digital assets produced to support digital/social media campaigns administered by the department. If this is not possible, please provide links to where these assets can be found online.</i> <i>2) Please supply details of the digital media platforms where each digital asset was published, and the budget attached to promoting each asset, on each platform.</i> <i>3) Where a platform allows the user to select a specific target audience for either organic or paid distribution, please supply details of the audiences selected by the Northern Ireland Office for each digital asset, on each platform, where it was published or displayed</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

- 1) The Northern Ireland Office digital media assets can be found at:
Twitter: @NIOgov <https://twitter.com/NIOgov>
Northern Ireland Office website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/northern-ireland-office>
Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/niogovuk/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJLrWenzLnCvMcER-afvmBw>

- 2) Northern Ireland Office digital media assets can be found at;
Twitter: @NIOgov
Northern Ireland Office website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/northern-ireland-office>
Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/niogovuk/>

No budget is allocated to promoting assets on any Northern Ireland Office digital media platforms.

- 3) The Northern Ireland Office does not target specific audiences for either organic or paid distribution.