

JANUARY 2019 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSES

Year	Month	FOI Reference	Topic
2019	Jan	FOI/18/274	Non-disclosure agreements
2019	Jan	FOI/18/281	Brexit preparations: citizenship rights
2019	Jan	FOI/18/282	Staff drug tests
2019	Jan	FOI/18/284	Non-disclosure agreements
2019	Jan	FOI/18/285	Spending on team building activities
2019	Jan	FOI/18/286	Archival file request: Kincora boys' home
2019	Jan	FOI/18/287	Data security incidents
2019	Jan	FOI/18/288	Fruitless payments
2019	Jan	FOI/18/289	Future border poll/ referendum documentation
2019	Jan	FOI/18/290	Future border poll/ referendum contingency planning
2019	Jan	FOI/18/291	Future border poll/ referendum documentation
2019	Jan	FOI/18/292	Brexit preparations: resourcing and expenditure
2019	Jan	FOI/18/293	Brexit preparations: refrigeration and cold storage units
2019	Jan	FOI/18/294	Brexit preparations: equipment and vehicle hire
2019	Jan	FOI/19/001	Huawei IT equipment
2019	Jan	FOI/19/002	Ministerial visits to Northern Ireland
2019	Jan	FOI/19/003	Engagement with Trend Micro (UK) Ltd
2019	Jan	FOI/19/004	Departmental vehicles
2019	Jan	FOI/19/005	Royal Prerogative of Mercy pardons

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/274
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	1. <i>I would like to know the total number of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) that the Department holds with third parties.</i> 2. <i>I would like to know the name of the corresponding third parties with whom the Department has NDAs with. Where this is an individual and would include personal data, please instead provide details of their role in relation to the Department, e.g. external consultant.</i> 3. <i>I would like to know what area of the Department's business the NDAs relate to.</i> 4. <i>And finally I would like to know the total number of NDAs signed by the Department that relate to Brexit.</i>
Response	1. The NIO has four non-disclosure agreements. 2. The information you have requested is exempt from release under section 35(1)(a) of the FOIA. Section 35(1)(a) protects information relating to the formulation or development of government policy. 3. The non-disclosure agreements relate to operational planning that do not include Human Resources or Brexit matters. 4. No non-disclosure agreements relate to Brexit. <u>PIT considerations in favour of releasing</u> • There is a public interest in putting information into the public domain in support of transparency and good governance. • There is also a general public interest in building an understanding of how the NIO operates and how decisions are made. <u>PIT considerations in favour of retaining</u> • This information was provided with a reasonable expectation that it would not be released into the public domain. • We have not found a precedent for other Departments releasing such materials. <u>Conclusion</u> After careful consideration it is recommended that it is in the public interest to withhold the documents.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/281
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>Paragraph 52 of the EU-UK Joint Report of the December 2017 provides (emphasis added):</i> <i>52. Both Parties acknowledge that the 1998 Agreement recognises the birth right of all the people of Northern Ireland to choose to be Irish or British or both and be accepted as such. The people of Northern Ireland who are Irish citizens will continue to enjoy rights as EU citizens, including where they reside in Northern Ireland. Both Parties therefore agree that the Withdrawal Agreement should respect and be without prejudice to the rights, opportunities and identity that come with</i>

	<i>European Union citizenship for such people and, in the next phase of negotiations, will examine arrangements required to give effect to the ongoing exercise of, and access to, their EU rights, opportunities and benefits.</i> <i>This report was produced at the end of Phase 1 of the Brexit negotiations, the following phase of negotiations concluded with the November 2018 draft Withdrawal Agreement.</i> <i>This is a freedom of information request for – from within the timeframe of December 2017 until November 2018- for:</i> <i>1. What information does the Department hold in relation to the examination of ‘arrangements required’ referred to in paragraph 52 of the Joint Report.</i> <i>2. Copies of documents captured by request 1 above;</i>
Response	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 determine whether we can provide the information that has been asked for in a request (section 12 FOIA). In relation to your request, 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 information, officials would be required to open and read a range of documents held by several colleagues and the ministers and their Private Offices, and this would involve a large amount of different records individually stored in a number of locations, and given the scope of your request, even to just collate a list of the documents we may hold within scope of this 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, for example by providing a shorter date range, a series of key phrases/terms for us to use in searching our records, or by refining the types of documents or the subjects of the documents you are seeking access to. 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 Cost Limits <u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SECTION 12(1)</u>

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/18/282
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i> <i>The time period for the following questions is the beginning of 2009 to the present day – i.e. the past 10 years.</i> <i>1. How many drugs tests of Northern Ireland Office staff suspected or alleged to have taken illegal substances have been conducted?</i> <i>2. On how many occasions has a member of Northern Ireland Office staff been found to have taken illegal substances through a positive drugs test?</i> <i>3. On how many occasions has a member of Northern Ireland Office staff been found to have taken illegal substances through other means?</i> <i>4. On how many occasions has a member of Northern Ireland Office staff been formally suspended on suspicion of having taken illegal substances?</i> <i>5. On how many occasions has a member of Northern Ireland Office staff received a first written warning on account of being found to have taken illegal substances?</i> <i>6. On how many occasions has a member of Northern Ireland Office staff received a final written warning on account of being found to have taken illegal substances?</i> <i>7. On how many occasions has a member of Northern Ireland Office staff resigned during or after enquiries into their suspected drug abuse?</i> <i>8. On how many occasions has a member of Northern Ireland Office staff been dismissed having been found to have taken illegal substances?</i> <i>9. On how many occasions has a member of Northern Ireland Office staff been charged with a criminal offence on account of being found to have taken illegal substances?</i>

	10. On how many occasions has a member of Northern Ireland Office staff been found guilty of a criminal offence on account of being found to have taken illegal substances? Please can the above data be broken down by the following drugs: • Cocaine • Cannabis • MDMA • Ketamine • Other If the breaking down of the data into specific drugs pushes the research above the maximum spending limit for a Freedom of Information request, please prioritise individual drugs in the order above until the threshold is reached. Please could the above data also be broken down into the civil service grades of the staff concerned e.g. SC3 down to AA/AO. Similarly, if this task pushes the research above the maximum spending limit for a Freedom of Information request, please complete the Freedom of Information request while ignoring this task.
Response	Since 2009 the Northern Ireland Office has not carried out any drugs tests on staff and no members of staff have been suspended; or been given any written warnings; or have resigned or been dismissed in relation to taking illegal substances. No members of staff have either been charged or convicted of a criminal offence in relation to taking an illegal substance.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/284
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	Please would you answer the below questions about non-disclosure agreements signed by NIO employees under the FOI Act. 1. How many NDAs have employees agreed with the NIO so far in 2018? 2. How many NDAs did employees agree with the NIO in 2017? 3. How many NDAs did employees agree with the NIO in 2016? If time and cost considerations allow, please also answer the below questions: 4. How many of the NDAs signed in each of the years specified above were confidentiality clauses signed by departing members of staff? 5. What was the total value of payments linked to the NDAs paid to employees in each year 2016, 2017 and 2018?

Response	There have been no non-disclosure agreements signed by employees in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 and there have been no confidentiality clauses signed or payments made linked to non-disclosure agreements in the years mentioned.
-----------------	--

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/285
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act.</i> <i>For your authority's core headquarters department, please state</i> 1. <i>The total amount spent on team building activities, away days and other social actives designed to foster cohesion among staff in each of the following financial years.</i> • 16/17 • 17/18 <i>For each of the above years, please provide</i> a. <i>A list of each team building activity completed by your staff in that year</i> b. <i>The amount spent by your authority on each of these activity in that year</i> c. <i>The number of staff that took part in each activity in that year.</i> d. <i>The accounting line description of the activity.</i> e. <i>A brief description of the activity completed (taken from invoices or other centrally held record, to ensure the request falls within cost. If it is impossible to do this within cost, please disregard this question.</i>
Response	The information requested is not held in the format you have stated, on this occasion the Northern Ireland Office is unable take your request further.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/286
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>I am making an FOI request for the following files on the grounds they date back forty years, there is a strong public interest element and the files were due for release this year.</i> • CJ 4/4514: Kincora Boys' Home • CJ 4/4515: Kincora Boys' Home

	• <i>CJ 4/4407: Kincora Boys' Home</i> • <i>CJ 4/4395: Kincora Boys' Home</i> • <i>CJ 4/4341: Kincora Boys' Home</i> • <i>CJ 4/6383: Kincora Boys' Home</i> • <i>CJ 4/4037: Inquiry into the Kincora children's home</i> • <i>CJ 4/4029: Committee of Inquiry into Children's Homes: including Kincora and young people's hostels</i> • <i>CJ 4/5644: Kincora Boys' Home: inquiry into children's homes and young persons hostels</i> • <i>CJ 4/4030: Committee of Inquiry into Children's Homes: including Kincora and young people's hostels</i> • <i>CJ 4/4031: Committee of Inquiry into children's homes: including Kincora and young people's hostels</i> • <i>CJ 4/5190: Kincora Boys' Home: inquiry into children's homes and young people's hostels</i>
Response	Under section 22 of the FOIA we are not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication. In line with the terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. This request is denied under section 22 of the FOI Act. The information you have requested will be transferred to The National Archives in due course as required under the Public Records Act. Were we release the files to you under FOI we would for practical reasons need to retain the files from public release until any internal review processes and subsequent ICO actions had run their course. This could take up to a year and we believe that these files are likely to be open sooner than that through usual processes of transfer as long as they are not interrupted.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/287
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request:</i> 1. <i>The total number of data security incidents which have occurred in your department in 2018 and details of these incidents;</i> 2. <i>The number of data security incidents in 2018 which involved the release of personal email addresses;</i> 3. <i>The number of data security incidents in 2018 which have breached data protection laws;</i> 4. <i>Any steps which have been taken to remedy any of the incidents in 1-3;</i> 5. <i>Any disciplinary action which has taken place as a result of the incidents in 1-3.</i>
Response	In respect of questions 1,4 and 5 - The Northern Ireland Office receives managed ICT services from IT Assist (ITA), which is a service provided by Enterprise Shared Services, a body within the Department of Finance, 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 In respect of questions 2 and 3 - There have been no incidents.
--	---

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/288
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request:</i> <i>1. The number of fruitless payments (payments for which liability ought not to have been incurred or whether the demand for the goods and services in questions could have been cancelled in time to avoid liability) in excess of £30,000 made by or paid for by your department in the financial year 2018-19 to date.</i> <i>2. What each payment was for</i> <i>3. The value of each payment</i> <i>4. The reason why the payment was made</i> <i>5. The reason why the payment was classified as fruitless</i> <i>6. Whether any disciplinary action was taken as a result of the payment (if there was any disciplinary action, please specify what the action was)</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and I can confirm there were no fruitless payments made by or for the Department.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/289
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>Please provide all communications (emails, internal memoranda, briefing papers) provided to the Northern Ireland Secretary on the issue of a future border poll/referendum on Irish unification under the terms of the Belfast Agreement, given or received between 1st April and 1st July 2018.</i>
Response	I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not hold the information that you have requested.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/290
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>Please provide details of all the work done in 2018 by civil servants in the Northern Ireland Office on preparation and contingency planning for a border poll/referendum on Irish unification under the terms of the Belfast Agreement.</i>

	<i>Where such work has been done, please provide any completed papers or briefing notes.</i>
Response	I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not hold the information that you have requested. The Government policy on a border poll has not changed. The Secretary of State continues to believe that a clear majority of people living in Northern Ireland continue to support the Union and that this is unlikely to change for at least the foreseeable future. The circumstances set out in the 1998 Agreement that require the Secretary of State to hold a border poll on Irish unification are therefore not satisfied.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/291
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>Please provide all communications (emails, internal memoranda, and briefing papers) to the Minister for the Cabinet Office and any other Cabinet Office ministers on the issue of a future border poll/referendum on Irish unification under the terms of the Belfast Agreement, given or received between 1st April and 1st July 2018.</i>
Response	I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not hold the information that you have requested.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/292
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>Can I please ask under FOI laws:</i> <i>1. How many officials at your department are currently engaged in “no deal” planning?</i> <i>2. How much has your department spent so far on “no deal” preparations?</i> <i>3. How much resources has your department so far allocated to “no deal” preparations?</i>
Response	The Department has not specifically allocated any funding for preparations for the UK leaving the EU without a deal to date. 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. Many of the same staff spend a proportion of their time preparing for leaving the EU (a) with and (b) without a deal. Those proportions vary continuously over time, so calculating a specific allocation would be disproportionately difficult.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/293
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>I would like to make a request under Freedom of Information for details of spending by the department on refrigeration and/or cold storage related to Brexit preparations.</i>

	1. Please would you tell me how many refrigeration and/or cold storage units have been ordered in relation to preparations for Brexit and what is the total cost expected to be. Of these, how many were ordered in relation to “no-deal” contingency preparations? 2. Please would you also say how much the most expensive unit is expected to cost to supply? 3. Were standard procurement rules applied in all cases and, if not, what was the reason for not applying them?
Response	In relation to your request the Northern Ireland Office has not had any departmental spend in relation to Brexit related or ‘no-deal’ related refrigeration.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/18/294
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	1. Please would you supply me under FOI with a list of equipment and transportation that have been leased, purchased or reserved by the NIO as part of contingency preparations for a no-deal Brexit? This should include items like fridges, HGVs, aeroplane contracts 2. Please would you state the cost of the 10 most expensive items? 3. Can you say whether standard procurement rules have been applied in all cases?
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and I can confirm that no such equipment and transportation have been leased, purchased or reserved by the Department as part of contingency preparations for a no deal exit.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/001
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	Please provide the following information. I make this request under the Freedom of Information Act. 1. How many Ministers in your department use Huawei mobile phones provided by the department? 2. How many staff in your department use Huawei mobile phones provided by the department? 3. Please provide a list of all other Huawei equipment used by your department - for example: storage devices, hard drives, networking equipment etc. 4. Please provide a copy of any guidance issued to ministers and staff since 1 Jan 2017 about the use of Huawei equipment. 5. Please provide a copy of any guidance issued to ministers and staff since 1 Jan 2017 about the use of mobile phones. 6. Please provide details of any current sponsorship agreements between Huawei and the department.
Response	in respect of your questions The Northern Ireland Office can confirm the following: -

	1. Nil 2. Nil 3. Nil 4. Nil 5. Nil 6. Nil 7. Nil
--	--

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/002
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>I wish to refer you to my recent FOI, reference number 18/232 in which I asked for the following:</i> <i>All trips made to Northern Ireland by the following Secretaries of State during their tenure:</i> • <i>Owen Paterson</i> • <i>Theresa Villiers</i> • <i>James Brokenshire</i> • <i>Karen Bradley</i> <i>Please include the date of their arrival and departure, a list of any official engagements and the associated cost of each trip.</i> <i>I subsequently received a response in respect of this FOI request on October 25th, inviting me to refine my Freedom of Information request to come under the cost limit, as follows:</i> <i>All trips made to Northern Ireland by the following Secretaries of State during their tenure:</i> • <i>Theresa Villiers</i> • <i>James Brokenshire</i> • <i>Karen Bradley</i> <i>Despite stipulating that I was putting in a clarification, not a new request, this refined request was treated as a new FOI and refused on the same grounds using the same template as the first refusal.</i>

	<i>Therefore I wish to alter my Freedom of Information request to copies of those pages of the appointment diaries of James Brokenshire and Theresa Villiers for the duration of their tenure as Secretary of State and that of Karen Bradley to date which cover their trips to Northern Ireland. I hope that, by requesting just those pages that relate to relevant trips to Northern Ireland that I can bypass potential redaction issues involved in requesting the full diaries.</i>
Response	The law allows us to decline to answer FOI requests when we estimate it would cost us more than £600 (equivalent to 3.5 working days' worth of work, calculated at £25 per hour) to identify, locate, extract and then provide the information that has been asked for. To comply with the request and to enable us to identify 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 Cost limits. 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. <u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SECTION 12(1)</u> 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. <u>The legislation</u> <u>Section 1: Right of Access to information held by public authorities</u> 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—
5. by one person, or
6. by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,
 - (a) 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.
7. 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/19/003
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>Please give details of any and all dealings between your organisation and the technology security company Trend Micro (UK) Ltd (whose website is https://www.trendmicro.com/en_gb/business.html) during 2015 and 2016, including:</i> <i>details of, agendas for and minutes of any meetings between your organisation and the company</i> <i>any correspondence between your organisation and the company</i> <i>details of any contractual engagements entered into between your organisation and the company</i> <i>details of any technology demonstrations or tests that the company has carried out for your organisation, including the date(s) carried out and the outcome(s)</i>
Response	In relation to your request the Northern Ireland Office has not had any departmental dealings with the technology security company Trend Micro in 2015 and 2016.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/004
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Northern Ireland Office:</i> <i>For 2018/19, please provide:</i> <i>Total number of vehicles leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office.</i> <i>Number of vehicles with a petrol engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office.</i> <i>Number of vehicles with a diesel engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office.</i> <i>Number of vehicles with an LPG engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office.</i> <i>Number of vehicles with a biofuel (including biodiesel and bioethanol) engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office.</i> <i>Number of vehicles with a hybrid electric (electric motor and one of the following: petrol, diesel, LPG, biofuel) engine/motor leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office. (This includes plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and standard hybrid vehicles.)</i> <i>Number of vehicles with an electric motor (the vehicle is only powered by electricity) engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office.</i> <i>Number of vehicles with hydrogen fuel cell engine/motor leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office.</i>

	For 2017/18, please provide: 1. Total number of vehicles leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office. 2. Number of vehicles with a petrol engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office. 3. Number of vehicles with a diesel engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office. 4. Number of vehicles with an LPG engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office. 5. Number of vehicles with a biofuel (including biodiesel and bioethanol) engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office. 6. Number of vehicles with a hybrid electric (electric motor and one of the following: petrol, diesel, LPG, biofuel) engine/motor leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office. (This includes plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and standard hybrid vehicles.) 7. Number of vehicles with an electric motor (the vehicle is only powered by electricity) engine leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office. 8. Number of vehicles with hydrogen fuel cell engine/motor leased or owned by Northern Ireland Office.
Response	In respect of your questions The Northern Ireland Office can confirm the following: - 2018/19 1. One. 2. None. 3. One. 4. None. 5. None. 6. None. 7. None. 8. None. 2017/18 1. One. 2. One. 3. None. 4. None. 5. None. 6. None. 7. None. 8. None.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/005
Month Issued	January 2019
Request	<i>Can you advise by name and crime who was in receipt of a Royal Prerogative of Mercy between 1988 and 1998 in relation to "Troubles" related crimes?</i>
Response	There are no statutory requirements relating to the publication of the names of those in receipt of the RPM, and the NIO holds only partial records for this period. Under section 40(2) of the FOI Act, we are not obliged to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the principles set out in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance, release of this information would contravene the principle at Article 5(1) of the GDPR 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. In addition, section 38 of the FOI Act (health and safety) is also engaged. In applying the public interest test we took into account factors in favour of disclosure: • That releasing such information would demonstrate openness and public accountability of decisions taken by public authorities; and • Disclosure would enable the understanding and participation in public debate on the issue of the RPM. We balanced these factors against those in favour of non- disclosure: • That releasing the information could endanger the safety and mental health of those the information refers to and their surviving families who may be subjected to threat or retaliation. We concluded, on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exemption in section 38 of the Act outweighed the public interest in disclosure. As a result, we consider we are not obliged under the Freedom of Information Act to provide you with the information you have requested. However I can confirm that on the basis of our existing records no full pardons have been granted in cases involving Northern Ireland terrorist offences.