

MAY 2019 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSES

Year	Month	FOI Reference	Topic
2019	May	FOI/19/059	Correspondence with Owen Patterson MP
2019	May	FOI/19/060	Staff pay
2019	May	FOI/19/061	Press Officer employment
2019	May	FOI/19/062	Pay bonuses and employment terminations
2019	May	FOI/19/063	Spending on LGBTI rights
2019	May	FOI/19/064	Employment of disabled staff
2019	May	FOI/19/065	Correspondence on Brexit
2019	May	FOI/19/070	ICT internal plans and strategy documentation
2019	May	FOI/19/072	Public sector projects
2019	May	FOI/19/073	Mobile phone contract
2019	May	FOI/19/074	Brexit preparations: resourcing
2019	May	FOI/19/075	Framework contracts relating to works in the Built Environment
2019	May	FOI/19/076	Archival file request: discussions between Lord Mountbatten and the Irish Ambassador, 1971-1979
2019	May	FOI/19/077	Fake Twitter accounts
2019	May	FOI/19/078	Correspondence on political donations legislation
2019	May	FOI/19/079	Correspondence on abortion access
2019	May	FOI/19/080	Non-disclosure agreements
2019	May	FOI/19/081	Spending on Uber journeys
2019	May	FOI/19/082	Correspondence with Owen Patterson MP

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/059
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>I am writing to you with a request under the Freedom of Information act.</i> <i>My request relates to Mr Owen Paterson, the Member of Parliament (MP) for North Shropshire. Under the act, I would like to ask :</i> <i>1. The number of times your department's ministers or special advisors have corresponded with Mr Paterson, or vice versa;</i> <i>2. The dates of each piece of correspondence relevant to point 1) above, and;</i> <i>3. Copies of any correspondence relevant to point 1) above.</i> <i>Please limit your search for relevant material to 1 January 2016 to the present day.</i> <i>I would like to make it clear that I am not requesting any correspondence which is genuinely related to Mr Paterson's constituents in North Shropshire.</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 provide the information that has been asked for in a request (section 12 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. The link below will provide you with the Northern Ireland Office's Quarterly Ministerial Transparency Data and may help with your query. https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ni-office-ministerial-transparency-data 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.

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 [Cost limits](#).

With regards to your request for information of official engagements, ministerial engagements are published on a quarterly basis and can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=northern-ireland-office>

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. <u>Guidance</u> <u>The appropriate limit</u> 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/19/060
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>Please provide me with current salary details (pay scales by grade) for each grade employed in the department including:</i> • <i>Incremental scale for each stated pay-range (if any);</i> • <i>Pay-zones for each stated pay range (if any);</i> • <i>Any separate pay ranges for specialist roles (if any);</i> • <i>Details of progression arrangements for each stated pay range.</i> <i>In addition please provide details of:</i> • <i>any fixed allowances paid for specific qualifications or skills e.g. accountancy, legal etc;</i>

- any special rates or allowances to attract and retain DDaT skills;
- any bonus scheme in operation;
- any performance pay scheme in operation

Response

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

Pay ranges for Senior Civil Servants from 1 April 2018

Pay Band	Minimum (£)	Maximum (£)
SCS1	£68,000	£117,800
SCS1 A	£68,000	£128,900
SCS 2	£90,500	£162,500
SCS 3	£111,500	£208,100

Summary of MOJ pay ranges from 1 August 2018

Open pay ranges for Bands A – F

Pay band	Pay Range	Area	Band Min	Band Max
Band A	1	Inner London	52,064	70,356
	Aa	Specialist + 5%	54,667	73,823
	Ab	Specialist + 10%	57,271	77,289
	Ac	Specialist + 15%	59,874	80,756
	2	Outer London	47,639	67,155
	Aa	Specialist + 5%	50,019	70,463
	Ab	Specialist + 10%	52,403	73,768
	Ac	Specialist + 15%	54,783	77,076
	3	National	43,038	62,888
	Aa	Specialist + 5%	45,472	65,982
	Ab	Specialist + 10%	47,638	69,075
	Ac	Specialist + 15%	49,802	72,169
Band B	1	Inner London	36,254	46,888

		Ba	Specialist + 5%	38,067	49,181	
		Bb	Specialist + 10%	39,880	51,476	
		Bc	Specialist + 15%	41,694	53,768	
		2	Outer London	34,303	44,755	
		Ba	Specialist + 5%	36,019	46,941	
		Bb	Specialist + 10%	37,733	49,128	
		Bc	Specialist + 15%	39,449	51,315	
		3	National	30,531	40,488	
		Ba	Specialist + 5%	32,058	42,461	
		Bb	Specialist + 10%	33,586	44,435	
		Bc	Specialist + 15%	35,111	46,408	
	Band C	1	Inner London	30,389	37,806	
		Ca	Specialist + 5%	31,909	39,646	
		Cb	Specialist + 10%	33,428	41,485	
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	28,174	36,229	
		Ca	Specialist + 5%	29,583	37,989	
		Cb	Specialist + 10%	30,993	39,751	
		3	Hotspots	26,161	33,601	
		Ca	Specialist + 5%	27,470	35,230	
		Cb	Specialist + 10%	28,777	36,859	
		4	National Plus	24,647	31,500	
		Ca	Specialist + 5%	24,829	33,024	
		Cb	Specialist + 10%	26,011	34,548	
		5	National (Existing)	23,647	31,500	
		Ca	Specialist + 5%	24,829	33,024	
		Cb	Specialist + 10%	26,011	34,548	
	Band D	1	Inner London	25,893	29,729	
		Db	Specialist + 10%	28,378	32,600	
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	23,957	27,679	
		Db	Specialist + 10%	26,250	30,344	
		3	Hotspots	22,124	26,374	
		Db	Specialist + 10%	24,232	28,909	

		4	National Plus	20,755	24,853
		Db	Specialist + 10%	22,102	27,237
		5	National (Existing)	20,755	24,853
		Db	Specialist + 10%	22,102	27,237
	Band E (open range)	1	Inner London	22,232	23,835
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	20,888	22,456
		3	Hotspots	19,535	21,067
		4	National Plus	18,514	20,020
		5	National Existing	18,514	20,020
	Band F (open range)	1	Inner London	18,684	20,195
		2	Outer London and SE Hotspots	17,635	19,120
		3	Hotspots	15,986	17,428
		4	National Plus	15,857	16,939
		5	National Existing	15,857	16,939

Note: The table shows the minima and maxima for each pay range with effect from 1 August 2018.

In response to your request to provide details on any fixed allowances paid for specific qualifications or skills, please see the table below that sets out the fixed allowances paid for Accountancy qualifications:

Lower Trainee	Higher Trainee	Fully Qualified
National Bands A to D £1,050	National Bands A to D £2,100	National Bands A to D £3,150
London Band A to D £1,500	London Band A to D £3,000	London Band A to D £5,000

There are no special rates or allowances paid to attract and retain Digital, Data and Technology (DDaT) skills within the NIO.

The NIO operates a quarterly bonus award scheme which encompasses performance, where our delegated grades can be awarded up to a maximum of £2000 per year in monetary value, equating to a maximum of £500 per quarter and £200 in vouchers per year. Bonuses for Senior Civil Servants in the NIO are made in line with Cabinet Office guidance which can be found here:

	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/763450/SCS-pay-practitioners-guide-2018.pdf
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/061													
Month Issued	May 2019													
Request	<i>I am writing to you to request the current number of staff within your department employed as press officers, and based within the UK. Please also detail the number of staff in these roles at the end of 2017/18 and 2016/17.</i> <i>Your final figure should consider any members of staff whose main duty is press relations, public relations, communications and social media.</i> <i>Your response should include both full-time and part-time members of staff, as well as any on any irregular contracts such as consultants. Preferably this portion of the response should be broken down to reflect these distinctions if possible.</i>													
Response	In response to your request, please see the table below: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Number of Press Officers</th><th>Total number of staff involved in press relations, public relations, communications and social media (this includes Press Officers)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of staff at end of 2016-17</td><td><5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Number of staff at end of 2017-18</td><td><5</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr> <td>Number of staff currently (April 2019)</td><td><5</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table> The Comms team within the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) consists of five full-time members of staff covering Press Officers, press relations, public relations, communications and social media. There are no part-time staff and no staff on any irregular contracts such as consultants.			Number of Press Officers	Total number of staff involved in press relations, public relations, communications and social media (this includes Press Officers)	Number of staff at end of 2016-17	<5	6	Number of staff at end of 2017-18	<5	8	Number of staff currently (April 2019)	<5	5
	Number of Press Officers	Total number of staff involved in press relations, public relations, communications and social media (this includes Press Officers)												
Number of staff at end of 2016-17	<5	6												
Number of staff at end of 2017-18	<5	8												
Number of staff currently (April 2019)	<5	5												

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/062	
Month Issued	May 2019	
Request	<i>This is an information request relating to former employees who have been given a bonus and subsequently had their employment terminated between 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.</i> <i>Please include the following information:</i>	

	• <i>The total number of former employees who have had their employment terminated but have received a bonus in the same or preceding financial year (of their termination).</i> • <i>The total amount paid in bonuses to former employees who have had their employment terminated in the same or following financial year (of their termination).</i> • <i>The total amount paid in statutory redundancy for each former employee who received a bonus in the same or preceding financial year (of their termination).</i> • <i>The total amount paid in compensation for loss of office for each former employee who received a bonus in the same or preceding financial year (of their termination).</i> <i>Please list the bonus amount and redundancy or loss of office payment for each individual. If this is not possible, please provide an aggregate figure.</i> <i>Termination of employment includes, but is not limited to, redundancy (both voluntary and involuntary) and dismissal (both with and without notice).</i>
Response	In response to Q1, the only employees of the NIO who had their employment terminated and also received a bonus during the same, or following financial year, were employees who left the department during the NIO's Voluntary Exit Scheme (VES) in March 2016. As the numbers are fewer than five, 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. In response the Q2, during 2014/15, the NIO paid an aggregated total of £750 to employees who left under VES in 2016. During 2015-16, the NIO paid an aggregated total of £600 to employees who left under VES in 2016. In response to Q3 and 4, I can confirm that no amount was paid in statutory redundancy or compensation to any former employee who received a bonus in the same or preceding financial year of their termination.
FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/063
Month Issued	May 2019

Request	<i>I am requesting the departmental sum of expenditure with the purpose of advancing LGBTi rights from June 2017 onwards. Please also provide individual expenditures and their purpose.</i>
Response	The department is committed to advancing LGBTi rights where it can, both within the workplace and more generally. The department and Northern Ireland Office ministers have met with several LGBTi stakeholders since June 2017 and have welcomed hearing a range of views on these important issues. The department has an active Diversity & Inclusion network and is wholly committed to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion for all. In 2018 we won the award for Best (Small) Employer for Equality & Diversity in N Ireland at the Legal-Island Gala Awards and this year we have been Highly Commended at the same awards for our gender initiative. We have a Diversity & Inclusion Advocate for LGBTi and promote events run by the Northern Ireland Civil Service for our Belfast-based staff. We have published internal staff blogs on LGBTi issues, including Pride, where the department has been proud to fly the rainbow flag above Stormont House in Belfast to mark the occasion. Much of the work we do around advancing LGBTi rights in the workplace is done without incurring cost. To coincide with Pride, we spent £318 in 2018 to purchase rainbow lanyards for optional use by our staff in Belfast and London to support LGBTi colleagues and raise awareness in the workplace.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/064
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<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> <i>I am looking for information about the number of disabled people working in the department.</i> <i>As such, I would like to know:</i> <i>1. The number of disabled people who worked in the department in full-time roles in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.</i> <i>2. The number of disabled people who worked in the department in part-time roles in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.</i> <i>3. The number of non-disabled people who worked in the department in full-time roles in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.</i> <i>4. The number of non-disabled people who worked in the department in part-time roles in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.</i> <i>5. How many applications the department received from disabled people for full-time and part-time roles and how many were successful in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.</i>

	6. <i>How many applications the department received from non-disabled people for full-time and part-time roles and how many were successful in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.</i>																														
Response	In response to questions 1-4 please see the table below: <table><tr><th>In the department</th><th>2015</th><th>2016</th><th>2017</th><th>2018</th><th>2019</th></tr><tr><td>No of disabled people in full-time roles</td><td><5</td><td><5</td><td><5</td><td><5</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>No of disabled people in part-time roles</td><td><5</td><td><5</td><td><5</td><td><5</td><td><5</td></tr><tr><td>No of non-disabled people in full-time roles</td><td>93</td><td>93</td><td>87</td><td>93</td><td>110</td></tr><tr><td>No of non-disabled people in part-time roles</td><td>5</td><td>8</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr></table> As the numbers are fewer than five, 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. In response to questions 5 and 6, the department does not record information within the scope of the request.	In the department	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	No of disabled people in full-time roles	<5	<5	<5	<5	9	No of disabled people in part-time roles	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	No of non-disabled people in full-time roles	93	93	87	93	110	No of non-disabled people in part-time roles	5	8	7	5	5
In the department	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019																										
No of disabled people in full-time roles	<5	<5	<5	<5	9																										
No of disabled people in part-time roles	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5																										
No of non-disabled people in full-time roles	93	93	87	93	110																										
No of non-disabled people in part-time roles	5	8	7	5	5																										

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/065
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.</i> <i>I would like to see all correspondence sent *to or from* the NIO to any other Secretaries of State, including the Prime Minister, between 06:00 and 19:00 on April 11 (11/4/2019), mentioning the word Brexit or any related phrase.</i> <i>This is a request for the NIO so I am looking for correspondence to or from the NIO.</i> <i>Brexit or related phrases include e.g. UK exiting the EU, UK leaving the EU, UK departing from the EU.</i> <i>To help you direct your search, I have narrowed my request to a specific time frame, i.e. between 06:00 and 19:00 on April 11 (11/4/2019). I am looking for all Brexit-related documents sent in these 13 hours.</i> <i>Correspondence includes letters, emails and any other documents.</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 provide the information that has been asked for in a request (section 12 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. The link below will provide you with the Northern Ireland Office's Quarterly Ministerial Transparency Data and may help with your query. https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ni-office-ministerial-transparency-data 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 shorter timeframe/date range or more specific types of stakeholders. 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. Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit. 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.
FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/070
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>I wish to submit a request for some of the organisation's information around the internal plans and strategy documents around ICT.</i>

	<i>The ICT documents I require is the 2019 – Onwards. If any of the documents is for example 2017-2020 please make sure that this is the 2019 version of the document. Or the most recent update.</i> <i>I wish to obtain the following documents:</i> <i>1. ICT/IM&T/IS Strategy - The IT department strategy or plans, highlights their current and future objectives.</i> <i>2. ICT Org Chart - A visual document that present the structure of the IT department, please include name and job titles. If this can't be sent please work towards a structure with job titles.</i> <i>3. ICT Annual or Business Plan - Similar to the ICT strategy but is more annually focused.</i> <i>4. ICT Capital Programme/budget - A document that shows financials budget on current and future projects.</i> <i>If some of these documents are not valid, please state when the 2019 ICT documents are planned to be published.</i>
Response	In respect of your questions 1 – 4, 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.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/072
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<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> <i>Please send me:</i> <i>• The total pipeline of public sector projects involving any aspect of the Built Environment, Construction, Consultancy Services or Professional Services in any capacity;</i> <i>• The total value of these projects;</i> <i>• The expected benefits and high level policy outcomes of these projects;</i> <i>• Descriptive information for each of these projects, including location, value, and procuring authority;</i> <i>• Descriptive information for any other public sector projects involving any aspect of the Built Environment, Construction, Consultancy Services or Professional Services in any capacity.</i>
Response	Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and I can confirm the Department has no such public sector projects.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/073
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>Please can you send me the annual spend of each network provider for the financial year 2018/19</i>
Response	Your request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Please see below reply as requested: - 1. Vodafone – Annual Spend for FY 18/19 £46,136.66 Inc. VAT

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/074
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>I would like to submit the following FOI request, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act:</i> 1. <i>The total number of departmental civil servants who were seconded to other departments to assist with government preparations for Brexit since December 1st 2017.</i> 2. <i>The total number of departmental civil servants who have been transferred from non-Brexit related projects to projects within their department focussed on inter-departmental preparations for Brexit since December 1st 2017.</i> 3. <i>The total number of departmental civil servants currently working on projects focussed on inter-departmental preparations for Brexit.</i> 4. <i>The total civil servant staff count for the department.</i>
Response	In response to question 1, there have been no departmental civil servants seconded from the Northern Ireland Office to other departments to assist with government preparations for Brexit since December 1st 2017. In response to questions 2 and 3, 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 restructured its approach to the way it handles EU exit work, moving from an initial central EU exit co-ordinating team of seven to the current position where EU exit work is distributed widely across the whole department. 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. As such it is difficult to quantify the number of staff working on preparing for the UK to leave the EU under any one possible scenario. In response to question 4, the total civil servant staff count for the Northern Ireland Office is 177, in both Belfast and London.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/075
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Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<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> <i>Regarding your organisation's current awarded or in procurement framework contracts relating to works in the Built Environment, including but not limited to professional services, design, consultancy/advisory services, construction and operation/maintenance, please send me:</i> <i>• The value of each of these framework contracts;</i> <i>• The set up date of each of these contracts;</i> <i>• The projected duration of each these contracts;</i> <i>• The financial limit of each of these contracts;</i> <i>• Descriptive information for any services provided in connection to the Built Environment, Construction, Consultancy Services or Professional Services in any capacity;</i> <i>• Details of any lots/sub lots of the contract;</i> <i>• The names of the organisations currently appointed to the contracts.</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland office (Stormont House, Belfast) are a named participant in multi departmental framework contracts relating to works in the Built Environment. These are procured through our Centre of Procurement Excellence (COPE), 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 and further information found at https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/foi-and-publication-scheme. We are also tenants in 1 Horse Guards Road, London. Frameworks at this location are procured by the landlord, HM Treasury, therefore the requested information is not held by this Department. HMT can be contacted on foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/076
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>I am making a Freedom of Information request for all information held on the discussions between Lord Mountbatten and the Irish Ambassador to London Donal O'Sullivan between 1971 and 1979.</i>
Response	The NIO can confirm that a search of its records between these dates shows there is no information held.

	If it is helpful to your research you should be aware that the NIO was formed in 1972 so records before that were held by the Home Office. Based on the date range it is more likely that any records that were held by either department have now been transferred to The National Archives under the Public Records Act.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/077
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide the following details for each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and (up to the date this FOI is processed) in 2019:</i> <i>For each year, the number of occasions when your department has complained to Twitter about the presence of 'fake' Twitter accounts pretending to be a branch of or have an official association with your department or the branches of government which you administer or help to administer.</i> <i>The names of those accounts</i> <i>The outcome of the complaint (e.g. Twitter responds by saying it has suspended said account)</i>
Response	Since 2016, the Northern Ireland Office has not complained to Twitter about the presence of 'fake' Twitter accounts pretending to have an official association with the department therefore the information you requested is not held.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/078
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding political donations legislation.</i> <i>Please confirm possession of and provide the following information held by the Northern Ireland office.</i> <i>Any letters, correspondence and or emails sent and or received by the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland MP James Brokenshire in relation to political donations legislation.</i>
Response	I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office holds information within the scope of your request. Please see the attached copies of correspondence as listed below:- - Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council - Response to Ards and North Down Borough Council - Correspondence from NIAC chair 22 February 2017

	Correspondence from an individual – Personal Information redacted under s40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Further information is also available on the Gov.UK link below. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/brookshire-provides-further-details-of-political-donations-policy-to-mps We are not obliged, under section 40(2) of the Act, to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing it 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 mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest to release the information. Personal information
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/079
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>To ask the Northern Ireland Office for:</i> <i>Copies of all correspondence received by the NIO or sent by any relevant NIO representative pertaining to abortion in Northern Ireland or access to abortion for women travelling to England, Scotland, Wales or the Republic of Ireland since January 1 2019.</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 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, as well as the department's 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 refining the specific types of correspondence you are seeking access to, or correspondence between the NIO and specific stakeholders and/or departments you are seeking access to, or specific key phrases/terms for us to use in searching our records.

	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 .
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/080												
Month Issued	May 2019												
Request	<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> <i>Please send me:</i> <i>A full breakdown of the number of non-disclosure agreements issued to staff at the Northern Ireland Office. I would like this breakdown to be broken up by year and to run from 2014-2019, so displaying the exact number of NDAs per year and if possible any refusals to sign. I would also like this breakdown to include the total cost of the NDAs issued each year, so total cost of NDAs per year. I would also like the number of staff in the department for each year mentioned to be indicated.</i>												
Response	I can advise that no non-disclosure agreements were signed in the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and in 2019 to date. 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. Please see the table below giving details of the number of staff in the department as of 31 December, for the years 2014 - 2018 and as of 15 May 2019. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th><th>Headcount</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014</td><td>139</td></tr> <tr> <td>2015</td><td>129</td></tr> <tr> <td>2016</td><td>131</td></tr> <tr> <td>2017</td><td>131</td></tr> <tr> <td>2018</td><td>165</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Headcount	2014	139	2015	129	2016	131	2017	131	2018	165
Year	Headcount												
2014	139												
2015	129												
2016	131												
2017	131												
2018	165												

	2019	177	
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/081
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.</i> <i>What was the total spend by your department on Uber (the private taxi firm)? This should include:</i> - <i>all expenses claims made by staff for Uber rides</i> - <i>all costs for Uber rides used to transport guests, visitors, experts, consultants and other individuals</i> - <i>all other money paid to Uber for any manner of transportation service, including any taxi-style services or food delivery</i> <i>Please provide the total figure for the 2018/19 Financial Year. Or, if these figures are not yet available, the previous Financial Year will do.</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland office do not have a contract with Uber. Some staff may make expenses claims for ad hoc business use with them, however the department does not hold information on whether Uber or another service provider was used.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/082
Month Issued	May 2019
Request	<i>Under the act, I would like to ask :</i> 1. <i>The number of times your department's ministers or special advisors have corresponded with Mr Paterson, or vice versa;</i> 2. <i>The dates of each piece of correspondence relevant to point 1) above, and;</i> 3. <i>Copies of any correspondence relevant to point 1) above.</i> <i>I would like to refine my request so that it covers the period from April 1 2018 (i.e. the last year).</i>
Response	Please see the enclosed correspondence relevant to the above FOI request. This is a letter from Secretary of State, Karen Bradley, concerning the PSNI's recruitment of Police Officers following a question Owen Patterson MP raised at NI Orals.