

JANUARY 2020 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSES

Year	Month	FOI Reference	Topic
2020	Jan	FOI/19/244	Archival file request: detention of women terrorists
2020	Jan	FOI/19/253	Consultation exercise: abortion services in Northern Ireland
2020	Jan	FOI/19/256	Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme: cross-agency working group
2020	Jan	FOI/19/257	Management of public records: file closures
2020	Jan	FOI/19/258	Management of public records: file closures
2020	Jan	FOI/19/259	IT operating systems
2020	Jan	FOI/19/260	Correspondence with Moy Park
2020	Jan	FOI/19/261	Equal marriage regulations
2020	Jan	FOI/19/262	Historic police misconduct legislation
2020	Jan	FOI/19/263	Brexit preparations: resourcing
2020	Jan	FOI/19/264	Archival file request: Belfast city centre security cordon
2020	Jan	FOI/19/265	Spending on stationery
2020	Jan	FOI/19/266	Fixed telecommunications and internet services contracts
2020	Jan	FOI/20/003	Agencies and public bodies: staff headcount
2020	Jan	FOI/20/007	Office buildings: energy performance certificate (EPC) ratings
2020	Jan	FOI/20/008	Archival file request: Belfast city centre security cordon
2020	Jan	FOI/20/011	Agencies and public bodies: carbon footprint and net zero transition
2020	Jan	FOI/20/013	Spending on catering refreshments

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/244
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>I came across the document ('Detention of women terrorists', CJ 4/6097) from the National Archives. The document would be very helpful for my research, especially due to the relatively limited information available related to women compared to men undertaking these activities.</i>
Response	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. Some of the information you have requested could be exempt under section 23(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, which relates to the bodies dealing with security matters, although it is also possible that the information relates to none of the bodies dealing with security matters. Sections 23(1) and 24(1) are being cited in the alternative as it is not appropriate, in the circumstances of the case, to say which of the two exemptions is actually engaged so as not to undermine national security or reveal the extent of any involvement, or not, of the bodies dealing with security matters. Section 23 is an absolute exemption and the Northern Ireland Office is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information. Any information that is not exempt from disclosure under section 23(1) could be exempt under section 24(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, which exempts information from disclosure if its exemption is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security. For the reasons given above under section 23, we cannot say which of the two exemptions is actually engaged, and to the extent to which section 24(1) is engaged we are not obliged to give any further explanation by virtue of section 17(4) because to do so would involve the disclosure of information which would itself be exempt. Section 24 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours releasing or withholding this information. There is a general public interest in disclosure of information and I recognise that openness in government may increase public trust in and engagement with the government. I have weighed these public interests against a very strong public interest in safeguarding national security. It is important that this sensitive information is protected, as disclosure of information in this case, if held, would damage national security. Taking into account all the circumstances of this case I have determined that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information. Information you have requested additionally exempt from release under section 38(1) of the Act as it would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of any individual. Section 38 is subject to a public interest test. The Northern Ireland Office recognises that there is a general public interest in transparency, to increase accountability and inform the public about how decisions are reached. There is also a general public interest in building an understanding of how the Northern Ireland Office operates. However, this is outweighed by the specific

	public interest in protecting individuals from physical or mental harm. On balance, the public interest is served by withholding this information under Section 38 of the Act. Information you have requested is also exempt under section 40(2) of the Act, which protects the personal information of another person. 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. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and is not subject to a public interest test. You can find more information by reading the full text of the Act, available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/23 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/24 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/38 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/40
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/253
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>Please may I request, under the Freedom of Information Act, any documents or transcripts from meetings involving representatives from the Northern Ireland Office regarding the current consultation 'A new legal framework for abortion services in Northern Ireland - Implementation of the legal duty under section 9 of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Act 2019'.</i>

Response	I can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for, but it is exempt from disclosure. We are not obliged to provide information if it relates to the formulation of government policy. In this case, the information is exempt under section 35(1)(a) of the FOIA. Section 35(1) (a) protects information relating to the formulation or development of government policy. We have considered the public interest in disclosing this information. <u>Public interest considerations in favour of disclosure</u> While there is a public interest in the way in which government decisions are made and how relationships with other stakeholders are conducted, good government depends on good decision-making and this needs to be based on the best advice available and a full consideration of all the options without fear of premature disclosure of matters that are subject to the ongoing formulation of government policy. <u>Public interest considerations against disclosure</u> Ministers and officials also need to be able to conduct rigorous and candid risk assessments of their policies and programmes including considerations of the pros and cons without there being premature disclosure which might close off better options; and that there needs to be a free space in which it is possible to 'think the unthinkable' and use imagination, without the fear that policy proposals will be held up to ridicule from premature disclosure. After careful consideration we have concluded that s35 (a) is engaged and it is in the public interest to withhold the documents. If you require further guidance on S.35 please refer to the guidance at the end of this letter and the ICO guidance on 'section 35' at https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/2260003/section-35-government-policy.pdf
FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/256
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>I am writing to request information regarding developments on the proposed scheme for payments for victims with injuries sustained during the conflict.</i> <i>We understand that a multi-agency group has been established to take the scheme forward and that it has met several times, including during the period of consultation on the scheme.</i>

	<i>Could you please furnish us with the following:</i> <i>a. Details on the group's membership including the roles and responsibilities of its membership;</i> <i>b. Minutes of the meetings held to date;</i> <i>c. Details on the group's establishment and mandate, including which body was responsible for its establishment and picking its membership;</i> <i>d. What role the group is likely to play in the context of consideration of the replies to the consultation;</i>
Response	Your request as outlined at paragraphs a. – c. have been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). For clarification the "Group" you refer to has been taken to refer to the Victims Payments implementation oversight group. At paragraph d. of your letter you ask what role the group is likely to play in the consideration of replies to the consultation; we are responding to that question as correspondence as we do not hold any information relevant to that question. At present there are no plans for this group to have any role in the consideration of consultation responses. As outlined in the Terms of Reference the Northern Ireland Office has policy responsibility for the Victims Payments scheme and responsibility for its implementation lies with the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS). As such, any detailed queries you may have concerning the implementation of the scheme and associated working groups etc. should therefore be directed to the NICS. In relation to your requests outlined at a-c the Northern Ireland Office has looked through archives for the periods you cited. After a search of our records, we have identified material within the scope of your request. This is attached. Please note that certain personal data has been redacted in line with section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We are not obliged to provide information if it relates to the formulation of government policy. In this case, the information is exempt under section 35(1)(a) of the FOIA. Section 35(1) (a) protects information relating to the formulation or development of government policy. We have considered the public interest in disclosing this information. <u><i>Public interest considerations in favour of disclosure:</i></u> While there is a public interest in the way in which government decisions are made, and how relationships with other stakeholders are conducted, good government depends on good decision-making. This needs to be based on the best advice

	available and a full consideration of all the options without fear of premature disclosure of matters that are subject to the ongoing formulation of government policy. <u>Public interest considerations against disclosure:</u> Ministers and officials also need to be able to conduct rigorous and candid risk assessments of their policies and programmes including considerations of the pros and cons without there being premature disclosure which might close off better options. There needs to be a free space in which it is possible to “think the unthinkable” and use imagination, without the fear that policy proposals will be held up to ridicule from premature disclosure. After careful consideration we have concluded that s35(a) is engaged and it is in the public interest to withhold some of the documents, including the minutes. If you require further guidance on S.35 please refer to the guidance at the end of this letter and the ICO guidance on ‘section 35’ at https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/2260003/section-35-government-policy.pdf
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/257 & FOI/19/258
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	FOI/19/257 <i>As part of the management of public records:</i> 1. <i>How many files has the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and/or the Northern Ireland Office recommended should be withheld from the public since the signing of the Stormont House Agreement on 23rd December 2014? I would be grateful if these figures were broken into the years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and to date 2019.</i> 2. <i>How many of these files, recommended for closure, were subsequently closed?</i> 3. <i>How many of those files now reside in Kew?</i> 4. <i>How many of those files have an open description?</i> 5. <i>Have you personally seen and recommended the closing of files during your tenure? If so how many have you signed?</i> FOI/19/258 <i>As part of the management of public records:</i> 1. <i>Please quantify the stated reasons for which any files that were closed were closed?</i> 2. <i>As there are only two reasons for closing files, how many files fell under which category or both?</i>

	<i>3. How many of the files relate to conflict killings, and what have come to be known as “legacy cases”?</i>
Response	As the second request relates closely to the first they have been combined and answered together. The Northern Ireland Office does hold information relevant to your request. Freedom of information law allows an authority to decline to answer FOI requests when it is estimated 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). Your request has been declined on this basis, as to comply would require physically checking several thousand files. These detailed searches would exceed the cost limit. Section 16 of the act requires authorities to provide you with advice and assistance, including how you might be able to reframe your request so that it does not exceed the cost limit. You may wish to focus your request on a narrower date range, or on fewer or different categories. Any reframed request would be considered on its own merits to determine whether it could answered within the cost limit. The review of historic files is undertaken by officials who select files for permanent preservation in consultation with The National Archives. They are then reviewed for any remaining sensitivities by officials. Neither the Secretary of State nor any ministers are aware of material that is identified to be closed in this process. Private Offices may be informed of ‘highlights’ when there are large or potentially newsworthy openings but by this stage any decisions have been taken so Ministers cannot influence what is being closed.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/259
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see questions below:</i> <i>1. How many computers do you have in your organisation?</i> <i>2. Of these computers, how many are running Windows XP?</i> <i>3. Of these computers, how many are running Windows 7?</i> <i>4. Of these computers, how many are running non-Microsoft operating systems?</i> <i>5. Do you expect to have all of your machines with Microsoft operating systems to be running Windows 10 before the Windows 7 end of support date (14 January 2020)?</i> <i>6. If not, how many do you expect to not be running Windows 10?</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland Office currently has 330 computers on its corporate IT system.

	In respect of your remaining questions the Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of both section 24(2) that relates to national security and sections 31(1)(a) and 31(3)(a) that relates to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist. 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. 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/19/260
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>I'm writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Could you please provide the following:</i> <i>Any correspondence - mail, emails, minutes from phone calls, or notes from meetings - involving former Secretary of State Theresa Villiers and any representatives of Moy Park from 01/01/19 and 22/06/19.</i>
Response	We have conducted a thorough search of our records and I can confirm the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within scope of this request as Theresa Villiers was not the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland during the period requested.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/261
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>Please provide copies of communications from the NIO to third parties on the matter of the proposed equal marriage regulations, since 1 October 2019 to date.</i>
Response	Freedom of information law allows us to decline to answer FOI requests when we estimate that it would cost more than £600 (equivalent to 1 person working for 3.5 days, 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 are very sorry that we cannot answer your request on this occasion, but we might be able to answer a refined request. To help you bring your request within in the cost limit, you could reconsider the scope of your FOI request and submit a revised and more targeted request for e.g. provide a shorter timeframe and/or specify the stakeholders/ third parties, or subject matter, or the type of documents/communications you require. We hope this advice is useful and we look forward to hearing from you. You can find out more about Section 12 of the FOIA by reading the full text of the Act, available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/12.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/262
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>Please provide copies of any communications from the Secretary of State and the NIO to the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPONI) relating to the matter of legislating for historic police misconduct, and any incoming correspondence from OPONI on the matter to the NIO from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015.</i>
Response	We have conducted a search of our records and I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/263
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>I would like to submit the following FOI request, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act:</i> <i>1. Please can you tell me how many staff, whether full-time or part-time, from your department were seconded at any time between June 23, 2016 and December 12, 2019, to work on preparations for the possibility of a no-deal Brexit, either under the auspices of Operation Yellowhammer or in some other capacity?</i> <i>2. Please provide (1) the number of staff involved and (2) the number of FTE weeks' work this represents.</i> <i>3. Please can you let me know the total number of staff working for your department (including anyone who has been seconded as a result of the above or any other reason) as of December 18, 2019?</i> <i>4. If staff have not been formally seconded to work on preparations for no-deal Brexit but are nonetheless preparing for it in the course of their existing roles, please let me know how many FTEs your department was either instructed or advised to set aside for this work during the same time frame.</i>
Response	In response to question 1, there have been no members of staff seconded at any time between June 23, 2016 and December 12, 2019, to work on preparations for the possibility of a no-deal Brexit, either under the auspices of Operation Yellowhammer or in some other capacity.

	In response to question 2 and 4, 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 3, the total civil servant staff count for the Northern Ireland Office as at 18 December was 199, in both Belfast and London.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/264
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>I would like to request any information available relative to what types of security infrastructure (barriers, turnstiles, bollards, etc) were in place on Royal Avenue, Belfast during the period 1969-1989.</i>
Response	We have conducted a search of our records and I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information relevant to your inquiry. You may want to direct your request to the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland or the Ministry of Defence who may hold the information you have requested.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/265
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>Could the department please detail how much it spent in 2018/19 financial year on:</i> <i>1. 'post it' notes and other non-branded sticky notes</i> <i>2. disposable pens</i>
Response	In the 2018/19 financial year the Northern Ireland Office spent a total of £496.30 on 'post-it' notes and other non-branded sticky notes and disposable pens. The breakdown on spend is: 1. £164.96 on 'post-it' notes and other non-branded sticky notes; and 2. £331.34 on disposable pens

FOI Request Reference	FOI/19/266
Month Issued	January 2020

Request	<i>I would like to submit a new FOI request as All or some of the information provided previously has expired, I require an update on the questions below. See my request below:</i> Contract 1 <i>1. Current Lines (Analogue, ISDN VOIP, SIP etc) Provider- Please can you provide me with the name of the supplier for the contract.</i> <i>2. Fixed Line- Contract Renewal Date- please provide day, month and year (month and year are also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract please provide me with the rolling date of the contract. If there is more than one supplier please split the renewal dates up into however many suppliers</i> <i>3. Fixed Line- Contract Duration- the number of years the contract is for each provider</i> <i>4. Type of Lines- Please can you split the type of lines per each supplier? PTSN, Analogue, SIP</i> <i>5. Number of Lines- Please can you split the number of lines per each supplier? SIP trunks, PSN Lines, Analogue Lines</i> Contract 2 <i>6. Minutes/Landline Provider- Supplier's name (NOT Mobiles) if there is no information available please can you provide further insight into why?</i> <i>7. Minutes/Landline Contract Renewal Date- please provide day, month and year (month and year is also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract please provide me with the rolling date of the contract.</i> <i>8. Minutes Landline Monthly Spend- Monthly average spend on calls for each provider. An estimate or average is acceptable.</i> <i>9. Minute's Landlines Contract Duration: the number of years the contract is with the supplier.</i> <i>10. Number of Extensions- Please state the number of telephone extensions the organisation currently has. An estimate or average is acceptable.</i> Contract 3 <i>11. Fixed Broadband Provider- Supplier's name if there is not information available please can you provide further insight into why?</i> <i>12. Fixed Broadband Renewal Date- please provide day, month and year (month and year is also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract please provide me with the rolling date of the contract. If there is more than one supplier please split the renewal dates up into however many suppliers</i> <i>13. Fixed Broadband Annual Average Spend- Annual average spend for each broadband provider. An estimate or average is acceptable</i> Contract 4
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	14. WAN Provider- please provide me with the main supplier(s) if there is no information available please can you provide further insight into why? 15. WAN Contract Renewal Date- please provide day, month and year (month and year are also acceptable). If this is a rolling contract please provide me with the rolling date of the contract. If there is more than one supplier please split the renewal dates up into however many suppliers 16. Contract Description: Please can you provide me with a brief description of the contract 17. The number of sites: Please state the number of sites the WAN covers. Approx. will do. 18. WAN Annual Average Spend- Annual average spend for each WAN provider. An estimate or average is acceptable. 19. Internal Contact: please can you send me there full contact details including contact number and email and job title for all the contract above.																																																														
Response	<table><tr><th>Item No.</th><th>London</th><th>Belfast</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Supplied by MOU with Cabinet Office</td><td>Supplied by SLA with IT Assist</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>See annex B</td><td>See annex B</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>See annex B</td><td>See annex B</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>£160</td><td>£1350</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>80</td><td>204</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>See annex B</td><td>See annex B</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>See annex B</td><td>See annex B</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>See annex A</td><td>See annex A</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>See annex C</td><td>See annex C</td></tr></table>			Item No.	London	Belfast	1	Supplied by MOU with Cabinet Office	Supplied by SLA with IT Assist	2	See annex B	See annex B	3	See annex A	See annex A	4	See annex A	See annex A	5	See annex A	See annex A	6	See annex A	See annex A	7	See annex B	See annex B	8	£160	£1350	9	See annex A	See annex A	10	80	204	11	See annex A	See annex A	12	See annex B	See annex B	13	See annex A	See annex A	14	See annex A	See annex A	15	See annex A	See annex A	16	See annex A	See annex A	17	See annex B	See annex B	18	See annex A	See annex A	19	See annex C	See annex C
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19	See annex C	See annex C																																																													

Annexe A

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 and the Cabinet Office (CO). 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 Cabinet Office at foiteam@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Annexe B

In respect of your questions The Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of both section 24(2) that relates to national security and sections 31(1)(a) and 31(3)(a) that relates to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.

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.

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.

Annexe C

Personal data may be disclosed in response to an FOI request if its disclosure will not contravene any of the data protection principles of the Data Protection Act 2018. Where disclosure would be inconsistent with any of those data protection principles, the personal data is exempt from disclosure by virtue of section 40 of the FOIA. The relevant principle to consider in this instance is the first data protection principle, which states that personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and shall not be processed unless a condition in schedule 2, and for sensitive personal data, also a condition in schedule 3 of the DPA is met.

In this case I judge it would be unlawful/unfair to disclose this personal data because those concerned would not be aware of the disclosure or that their data was to be disclosed in this manner. All individuals have a clear and strong expectation that

	their personal data will be held in accordance with the DPA and not disclosed to the public under the FOIA. The first data protection principle would therefore be breached therefore the schedules or further principles do not need to be considered
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/003
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>Please could you provide the following information:</i> <i>A broken down list of the employee count for all agencies and public bodies associated with and working alongside your organisation.</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland Office does not hold the information you have requested. However, I can inform you that the Department works alongside the following Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs): - The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission - The Parades Commissions for Northern Ireland - The Independent Reporting Commission The Department also works alongside one advisory NDPB: - The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland You may wish to contact these bodies directly and request this information.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/007
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>I am writing to make a request for all the information relating to the questions below to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act:</i> <i>What are the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings for office buildings (main building and regional offices) owned by this Government Department?</i> <i>Has the Department investigated options for improving the EPC rating of these office buildings?</i> <i>If so, has the Department taken any action to improve the EPC rating of its office buildings?</i>

Response	The Northern Ireland Office currently lease premises at Stormont House, Stormont Estate Belfast BT4 3SH and 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ. As the Northern Ireland Office is a tenant in both buildings it does not hold any information regarding EPC ratings and has not investigated options for improving these ratings. However both landlords are government bodies which adhere to environmental targets and policies. Landlords for Stormont House, Stormont Estate Belfast BT4 3SH can be contacted via Department of Finance, Properties Division on foi@finance-ni.gov.uk. Landlords for 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ can be contacted on foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/008
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>Please can you provide information regarding what types of security installations were in place at the east end of College Street, Belfast between the years 1988 and 1993?</i> <i>Further to this request, please provide information regarding security barrier at western end of College Street, at junction with College Avenue.</i>
Response	We have conducted a search of our records and I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information relevant to your inquiry. You may want to direct your request to the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland or the Ministry of Defence who may hold the information you have requested.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/011
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act we would like to know the answers to the following:</i> <i>What is the carbon footprint under scope 1 and 2 of the GHG protocol for the Northern Ireland Office, including:</i> <i>Executive non-departmental public body</i> <i>Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission</i> <i>Parades Commission for Northern Ireland</i> <i>Advisory non-departmental public body</i> <i>Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland</i>

	2. <i>What is the timeframe for transitioning to net zero?</i> 3. <i>Who is responsible for leading the transition?</i>
Response	The NIO and its public bodies are exempt from complying with the GHG protocols due to the size of the organisation and budget as it would be disproportionate. Although there were regulatory changes from 1 April 2019 for companies and limited liability partnerships in complying with the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 ('the 2013 Regulations') and the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 that implement the government's policy on Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) these did not apply to the NIO. The Government publishes the Greening Government Commitments Annual Report that includes GHG figures - there is a link to the latest version provided below: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/802388/ggc-annual-report-2017-2018.pdf However, as stated above we are exempt, and this report only includes the Greening Government targets that apply to 22 central government departments and non-ministerial government departments and their Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs).

FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/013
Month Issued	January 2020
Request	<i>Please can you provide me with information on how much was spent on providing:</i> 1. <i>Coffee</i> 2. <i>Tea</i> 3. <i>Biscuits</i> 4. <i>Any other refreshments</i> <i>For all meetings in your department since July 2016, broken down by month if possible.</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 the Department, and this would involve a large amount of different records individually stored in a number of locations.

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 key phrases.

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>.