

JUNE 2020 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSES

Year	Month	FOI Reference	Topic
2020	Jun	FOI/20/085	IT software contracts
2020	Jun	FOI/20/086	Local area network contract
2020	Jun	FOI/20/087	Ministerial engagement with Moy Park
2020	Jun	FOI/20/088	Spending on work from home equipment
2020	Jun	FOI/20/089	New Deal New Approach: Ulster Scots recognition
2020	Jun	FOI/20/090	Ministerial office holders
2020	Jun	FOI/20/091	Stakeholder engagement: abortion services in Northern Ireland
2020	Jun	FOI/20/092	Spending on electrical suppliers
2020	Jun	FOI/20/093	Government funding for airports in Northern Ireland
2020	Jun	FOI/20/094	Breaches of the Civil Service code
2020	Jun	FOI/20/095	Archival file request: guidelines on the handling of agents and informers

FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/085
Month Issued	June 2020
Request	<i>The information I require relates to the organisations software contract, please send me the organisation's primary contract around the types of contract below.</i> <i>I require the organisation's to provide me with the following contract information relating to the following corporate software/enterprise applications:</i> <i>A. Enterprise Resource Planning Software Solution (ERP) - this is the organisation's main ERP system and may include service support, maintenance and upgrades.</i> <i>B. Primary Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Solution - this is the organisation's main CRM system and may include service support, maintenance and upgrades. Example of CRM systems the organisation may use could include Microsoft Dynamics, Front Office, Lagan CRM, Firmstep</i> <i>C. Primary Human Resources (HR) and Payroll Software Solution - this is the organisation's main HR/payroll system and may include service support, maintenance and upgrades. In some cases the HR contract maybe separate to the payroll contract please provide both types of contracts. Example of HR/Payroll systems the organisation may use could include iTrent, Resourcelink.</i> <i>D. The organisation's primary corporate Finance Software Solution - this is the organisation's main Finance system and may include service support, maintenance and upgrades. Example of finance systems the organisation may use could include E-Business suite, Agresso (Unit4), eFinancials, Integra, SAP</i> <i>In some cases you may come across contracts that provides service support maintenance and upgrades separate to the main software contract, please also provide this information in the response following the requested data below.</i> <i>For each of the categories above can you please provide me with the relevant contract information listed below:</i> <i>1. Software Category: ERP, CRM, HR, Payroll, Finance</i> <i>2. Name of Supplier: Can you please provide me with the software provider for each contract?</i> <i>3. The brand of the software: Can you please provide me with the actual name of the software. Please do not provide me with the supplier name again please provide me with the actual software name.</i> <i>4. Description of the contract: Please do not just state two to three words can you please provide me with detailed information about this contract and please state if upgrade, maintenance and support is included.</i>

	<i>Please also include any modules included within the contract as this will support the categories you have selected in question 1.</i> 5. <i>Number of Users/Licenses: What is the total number of user/licenses for this contract?</i> 6. <i>Annual Spend: What is the annual average spend for each contract?</i> 7. <i>Contract Duration: What is the duration of the contract please include any available extensions within the contract.</i> 8. <i>Contract Start Date: What is the start date of this contract? Please include month and year of the contract. DD-MM-YY or MM-YY.</i> 9. <i>Contract Expiry: What is the expiry date of this contract? Please include month and year of the contract. DD-MM-YY or MM-YY.</i> 10. <i>Contract Review Date: What is the review date of this contract? Please include month and year of the contract. If this cannot be provide please provide me estimates of when the contract is likely to be reviewed. DD-MM-YY or MM-YY.</i> 11. <i>Contact Details: I require the full contact details of the person within the organisation responsible for this particular software contract (name, job title, email, contact number).</i> <i>If any of the information is not available please can you provide me with the notes on the reasons why?</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland Office does not use ERP or CRM solutions The primary HR and payroll software used by the Northern Ireland Office is provided by the Ministry of Justice. The information requested therefore, is not held by this department. This information may be available from the Ministry of justice who can be contacted at data.access@justice.gov.uk. The Northern Ireland Office receives their managed corporate finance solution 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/20/086
Month Issued	June 2020
Request	<i>Please can you send me the organisation's Local Area Network (LAN) contract, which may include the following:</i> • <i>Support and Maintenance- e.g. switches, router, software etc</i> • <i>Managed- If this includes services than just LAN.</i>

1. *Contract Type: Managed or Maintenance*
2. *Existing Supplier: Who is the current supplier?*
3. *Annual Spend for each supplier: What is the annual average spending on the supplier above? If there is more than one supplier please split the annual averages spend for each supplier.*
4. *Number of Users: Please can you provide me with the number of users this contract covers. Approximate number of users will also be acceptable.*
5. *Number of Sites: The number of sites, where equipment is supported by each contract.*
6. *Hardware Brand: What is the hardware brand of the LAN equipment?*
7. *Contract Description: Please provide me with a brief description of the overall contract.*
8. *Contract Duration: What is the duration of the contract is and can you please also include any extensions this may include.*
9. *Contract Expiry Date: When does the contract expire?*
10. *Contract Review Date: When will the organisation is planning to review the contract?*
11. *Responsible Officer: Contact details including name, job title, contact number and email address?*

If the LAN maintenance is included in-house please include the following information:

1. *Hardware Brand: What is the hardware brand of the LAN equipment?*
2. *Number of Users: Please can you provide me with the number of users this contract covers. Approximate number of users will also be acceptable.*
3. *Number of Sites: Estimated/Actual number of sites the LAN covers.*
4. *Responsible Officer: Who within the organisation is responsible for LAN please provide me with contact details including name, job title, contact number and email address?*

If the contract is managed by a 3rd party e.g. Can you please provide me with

1. *Existing Supplier: Who is the current supplier?*
2. *Number of Users: Please can you provide me with the number of users this contract covers. Approximate number of users will also be acceptable.*
3. *Number of Sites: Estimated/Actual number of sites the LAN covers.*
4. *Contract Type: Managed, Maintenance, Installation, Software*
5. *Hardware Brand: What is the hardware brand of the LAN equipment?*
6. *Contract Description: Please provide me with a brief description of the overall contract.*

	7. <i>Contract Duration: What is the duration of the contract is and can you please also include any extensions this may include.</i> 8. <i>Contract Expiry Date: When does the contract expire?</i> 9. <i>Contract Review Date: When will the organisation is planning to review the contract?</i> 10. <i>Responsible Officer: Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contract(s) please provide me with contact details including name, job title, contact number and email address?</i>
Response	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/20/087
Month Issued	June 2020
Request	<i>I am writing to request information under the Environmental Information Regulations. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.</i> <i>Please provide me with the following materials related to the phone/video call between Moy Park and NI Office ministers and officials, which took place in the week of the 11-15 May 2020.</i> <i>Notes, transcript and/or recordings of the call with Moy Park.</i> <i>Any emails between Moy Park and NI Office related to the call with Moy Park.</i> <i>Any briefings prepared by or for NI Office officials before or after the call related to the call with Moy Park.</i> <i>Please include the offices of the following ministers and officials in your search - Brandon Lewis; Robin Walker.</i>
Response	I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information relevant to your request.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/088
Month Issued	June 2020
Request	1. <i>Please tell me how much was spent by your department on paying for the provision of new items of office furniture and equipment to facilitate staff to work from home during the coronavirus lockdown.</i> 2. <i>Please state how much was spent on paying for the transportation of office furniture and equipment, which was not new but had already been in use, to your staff members' homes during the coronavirus lockdown.</i>

	3. <i>Please provide me with the cost and the make and model of the single most expensive item of equipment or furniture that was bought for a staff member to facilitate their working from home during the coronavirus lockdown.</i>
Response	In response to Q1 the amount spent on paying for the provision of new items of office furniture and equipment to facilitate staff during the coronavirus lockdown was £22,451.88. In response to Q2 there was nothing spent on transportation of office furniture and equipment, which was not new but had already been in use, to staff members' homes during the coronavirus lockdown. In response to Q3 the single most expensive item of equipment or furniture that was bought for a staff member to facilitate their working from home during the coronavirus lockdown was a Phillips monitor at £168.30. The monitors have been purchased as part of an IT upgrade and are departmental assets which will be returned to the office.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/089
Month Issued	June 2020
Request	<i>This is a freedom of information request in relation to the commitment on page 49, paragraph 24 of the New Decade New Approach document of January 2020 that the UK government will "Recognise Ulster Scots as a national minority under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities." Specifically:</i> <i>1. What documents does the NIO hold in relation to the above matter</i> <i>2. Copies of documents captured by (1) above;</i> <i>This request is restricted to policy-type documents and briefings; and records of meetings; (or relevant extracts from) in relation to the subject matter (does not include emails, or other communication between officials etc). This request is restricted to the timeframe of April 2019 to 9 January 2020 (i.e. from the initiation of the negotiations to the publication of NDNA)</i>
Response	We are not obliged to provide information if it relates to the formulation of government policy. In this case, the information you have requested would be exempt under section 35(1)(a) of the Freedom of the Information Act. 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. After careful consideration we have concluded that s35 (a) is engaged in this case and it is in the public interest to withhold documentation. If you require further guidance on S.35 please see attached ICO guidance on 'section 35' at https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/2260003/section-35-governmentpolicy.pdf
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/090
Month Issued	June 2020
Request	<i>Re: List of Ministers of State and Undersecretaries of State</i> <i>We refer to the above and hope this email finds you well. I hope this is a straightforward request and does not take up too much of your time.</i> <i>I am trying to compile a list of the terms in office of every Secretary of State, Minister of State and Undersecretary of State in Northern Ireland. I so far have the following information relating to the Secretary of States:</i> <i>1. 24/03/1972-02/12/1973 William Whitelaw</i> <i>2. 02/12/1973-04/03/1974 Francis Pym</i> <i>3. 05/03/1974-10/09/1976 Merlyn Rees</i> <i>4. 10/09/1976-04/05/1979 Roy Mason</i> <i>5. 05/05/1979-14/09/1981 Humphrey Atkins</i> <i>6. 14/09/1981-03/09/1985 Douglas Hurd</i> <i>7. 03/09/1985-24/07/1989 Tom King</i> <i>8. 24/07/1989-10/04/1992 Peter Brooke</i> <i>9. 10/04/1992-03/05/1997 Sir Patrick Mayhew</i>

	10. 03/05/1997-11/10/1999 Peter Mandelson 11. 25/01/2001-24/10/2002 John Reid 12. 24/10/2002-06/05/2005 Paul Murphy 13. 06/05/2005-28/06/2007 Peter Hain 14. 28/06/2007-12/05/2010 Owen Paterson 15. 04/09/2012-14/07/2016 Theresa Villiers 16. 14/07/2016-08/01/2018 James Brokenshire 17. 08/01/2018-24/07/2019 Karen Bradley 18. 24/07/2019-13/02/2020 Julian Smith 19. 13/02/2020-present Brandon Lewis <i>I have been able to source the current Minister of State and the names and term years of the previous 3, but am aiming to obtain a full and complete list of each Minister of State and Undersecretary of State and their terms. If you do not have this information, could you please direct me to where I could find same?</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. 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 time frame/date range. You should not infer from this that the Northern Ireland Office holds a large amount of information relating to the subjects you have asked about, only that we would need to search through a large number of records in order to find out whether we hold any information relevant to your request. 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.

	Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit. However, I can advise that Ministerial information is provided in our annual reports, which date back to 2006 and can be found on the gov.uk website.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/091
Month Issued	June 2021
Request	<i>To ask the Northern Ireland Office for a list of all meetings held by NIO Official Holly Clark with individuals or organisations outside of the civil service between July 15 2019 to November 2 2019 on the subject of abortion.</i>
Response	Following the public consultation into abortion services in Northern Ireland, the Government had a wide range of engagement, at both official and ministerial level. The Government's response to the public consultation was published on gov.uk on 25 March 2020 and contains further information both about the public consultation process and each element of the Regulations – it is available here https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875380/FINAL_Government_response_-_Northern_Ireland_abortion_framework.pdf On the specific time period requested, Holly Clark attended meetings with the following stakeholders: • 3 October - representative from the 5 Northern Ireland political parties • 4 October - All Ireland Church Leaders Group - comprising representatives from the Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, Catholic Church, Northern Bishops and the Evangelical alliance. • 16 October - Tony Lloyd MP and Karin Smyth MP

FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/092
Month Issued	June 2022
Request	<i>Please could you provide the annual spend for the below suppliers from your last financial year April 2019 - March 2020? Please note this information is not commercially sensitive as all you will be giving me is the total money spent with each supplier not any detail of what you bought.</i> <u>Suppliers</u> • AC Electrical

- *Albion Electric*
- *B E D ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTIONS*
- *Bennett & Fountain*
- *Bridge Electrical Supplies*
- *CEL Electrical*
- *City Electrical Factors*
- *Contact Electrical Distributor*
- *CRS Electrical Supplies Ltd*
- *CUMBERLAND ELECTRICAL WHOLESALERS LTD*
- *DINNING ELECTRICAL WHOLESALE*
- *Edmundson Electrical*
- *Electric Base*
- *Electric Centre*
- *ELECTRICAL WHOLESALE SUPPLIES LTD (EWS)*
- *EXPERT ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES LTD*
- *Eyre and Elliston Ltd*
- *FYLDE ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES LTD*
- *GCG ELECTRICAL WHOLESALERS LIMITED,*
- *GILBEY ELECTRICAL WHOLESALERS LTD*
- *GILTBROOK ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS LTD*
- *Hardings Electrical*
- *IMPACT ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS LTD*
- *Juice Electrical Supplies*
- *KEW ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS LTD*
- *LINCS ELECTRICAL WHOLESALERS LTD (LEW)*
- *Links Electrical Supplies*
- *MAINS ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS LTD*
- *Medlock*
- *Newey & Eyre*
- *NORTHERN & CENTRAL ORMSKIRK ELECTRICAL LTD*
- *Park Electrical Distribution*
- *Phase Electrical Distributors*

	• <i>QUALITY ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES AND TECHNOLOGY LTD</i> • <i>Rexel</i> • <i>Roblett Electrical Supplies Ltd</i> • <i>RS Components</i> • <i>Ryness Electrical</i> • <i>S & A Electrical Distribution</i> • <i>Screwfix</i> • <i>Service Electrical Wholesale</i> • <i>Smith Brothers</i> • <i>Stearn Electrical</i> • <i>SWIFT ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES</i> • <i>THE WHOLESALE LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL COMPANY</i> • <i>TJ ELECTRICAL WHOLESALE LTD</i> • <i>TN Robinson</i> • <i>TRAFFORD ELEC WHOLESALERS</i> • <i>Upex Electrical Distributors Ltd</i> • <i>WF Senate</i> • <i>Wilson Electrical Distibutors Ltd</i> • <i>Wilts Wholesale</i> • <i>YESSS Electrical</i> • <i>C & K Supplies</i> • <i>Electrical Wholesale Supplies Swansea Ltd</i> • <i>Independent Electrical Supplies</i> • <i>LH Evans</i> • <i>TLC Electrical Supplies</i> • <i>Wyeverne Electrical</i> • <i>Alan Wilson Electrical Supplies</i> • <i>AN Supplies Ltd</i> • <i>R & M Electrical</i>
Response	In the financial year April 2019 to March 2020 the Northern Ireland Office has not used the suppliers you have listed and, therefore, has no annual spend with them.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/093
Month Issued	June 2020
Request	<i>Please provide</i> <i>1. an outline of the role of the Departmental officials and Minister or their advisors in engaging with the DfT and Transport Secretary in relation to the of the £5.7m Government funding which Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced on 01 May 2020 will be shared between Belfast City and City of Derry airports, and airlines Aer Lingus and Loganair and</i> <i>2. an outline of all meetings, conversations and materials (minutes, letters, and other relevant documentation) which led the Department and Secretary of State to conclude that this funding should be approved and</i> <i>3. an outline of any further existing or future funding or support your Department has or intends to provide to each of these organisations and associated documentation.</i>
Response	Answering your request in full would require a wide-ranging search for material by a number of policy and other officials within the Northern Ireland Office. We estimate that the cost of these officials carrying out a manual exercise to identify what information they hold, then locating, extracting and analysing this material, would exceed the FOI cost limit. Freedom of Information law allows us to decline a request 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). 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 request and submit a revised and more targeted request by providing a shorter timeframe/date range or more specific types of correspondence. You can find out more about Section 12(1) by reading the full text of the Act, available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/12. We would also like to make you aware that any sensitive information located as part of a narrowed request may engage exemptions in the FOI Act and if these exemptions are qualified we will need to balance the public interest in release against that for withholding. These exemptions may include:

	• Section 35(1)(a) - covering formulation and development of government policy; • Section 41(1) - information provided in confidence; and • Section 43(2) - prejudice to commercial interests. Where required, we will of course conduct a public interest test for any information we identify and communicate that to you as part of our response but we wanted to make you aware of this whilst you are clarifying your request. If you send us a new, more specific request, we will consider if that can be dealt with within the cost limit. Please note that, as in this instance, a further refined request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/094
Month Issued	June 2020
Request	<i>Firstly can you tell me how many civil servants in your department have been disciplined for breaching the Civil Service code since July 2016? Could you tell me the date and nature of the incident for which they were disciplined, the outcome of their case and their pay grade within the Civil Service?</i> <i>Second could you tell me how many civil servants have reported colleagues for breaches of the Civil Service code since July 2016?</i>
Response	In response to your questions I can confirm that no civil servants in the Northern Ireland Office have been disciplined for breaching the Civil Service code since July 2016. I can also confirm that no civil servants in the Northern Ireland Office have reported colleagues for breaches of the Civil Service code since July 2016.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/20/095
Month Issued	June 2020
Request	<i>I am writing to request the release of information under the Freedom of Information Act.</i> <i>The topic concerns the question of creating statutory or non-statutory guidelines regarding the use of informers – sometimes known as agents – to collect intelligence within the UK in the late 1980s and the 1990s.</i> <i>Specifically, I am requesting any information the Northern Ireland Office might hold and be able to release concerning:</i>

	1. <i>The creation of the Northern Ireland Office Working Group that met to discuss guidelines on handling agents and informers in October 1989, November 1989 and October 1990;</i> 2. <i>Records of what was discussed at these meetings;</i> 3. <i>Any efforts that were made to persuade Ministers to approve of the draft guidelines produced by this Working Group. These efforts continued until at least 1992;</i> 4. <i>The creation of a new working group led by John Chilcot, Permanent Secretary. This group first met in December 1992;</i> 5. <i>Records of what this new group discussed;</i> 6. <i>How the Northern Ireland Office greeted this working group's conclusion that statutory guidance on the use of informers was necessary.</i>
Response	We have conducted a thorough search of our records and I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold any information within the scope of your request. Due to the age of the material you may wish to research open records at The National Archives if you have not already done so.