

AUGUST 2021 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSES

Year	Month	FOI Reference	Topic
2021	Aug	FOI/21/101	Archival file requests: payments to informants and the Burns, Toman and McKerr inquests
2021	Aug	FOI/21/122	Constitution and Rights Policy Group: meetings
2021	Aug	FOI/21/123	Government credit cards
2021	Aug	FOI/21/124	Data protection breaches
2021	Aug	FOI/21/125	European Union regulations and Northern Ireland
2021	Aug	FOI/21/126	Ministerial travel: domestic flights
2021	Aug	FOI/21/128	Hikvision cameras
2021	Aug	FOI/21/129	Mobile phone locking
2021	Aug	FOI/21/130	Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past command paper
2021	Aug	FOI/21/133	Ministerial meeting with the Loyalist Community Council and paramilitary representatives
2021	Aug	FOI/21/135	Hikvision, Dahua or Huawei contracts
2021	Aug	FOI/21/138	Sperrin Mountain goldmine: Dalradian Resources planning application
2021	Aug	FOI/21/143	Spending on Perspex screens

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/101
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the release of two Northern Ireland Office records. These records are:</i> • <i>CJ 4/7481</i> • <i>CJ 4/7649</i> <i>According to the National Archives catalogue each of these records was originally closed or retained by the Northern Ireland Office, under Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958, and was due for reconsideration in 2019.</i> <i>I have checked on your website and in the National Archives catalogue and none of these records has been released yet.</i> <i>Given that this date, 2019, has now passed, I am hoping that these two documents can now be considered for release.</i>
Response	We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We do hold information that you requested. You are correct that both retentions have expired, however the NIO has made further applications to The Advisory Council on National Records & Archives (ACNRA) to retain these files in-house. If I may, however, I shall address of the above mentioned records in turn: CJ 4/7481 Unfortunately following a review of held records it has been determined that, at present, this record cannot be found. Therefore, as the Department is currently unable to locate the record, I am unable to provide you with a definitive Freedom of Information response. I should note that the Department maintains a large number of physical records and best records management practices are employed across the Department. However in rare instances records are misplaced. The Department will endeavour to locate CJ 4/7481 and should it be located we will contact you again with a formal Freedom of Information response. CJ 4/7649 I can confirm that information within scope of your original request is held by the Department. <i>Section 23 (Information supplied by bodies dealing with security matters)</i>

	It is the Department's position that the requested information was supplied to us by, or relates to one of the bodies dealing with security matters listed at section 23 (3) of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note there is no requirement to consider the effect of disclosure, the harm of release and thus public authorities, when relying on section 23 (information supplied by bodies dealing with security matters) are not required to conduct a public interest test. Section 23 (information supplied by bodies dealing with security matters) states information held by a public authority is exempt from disclosure if it was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in section 23(3). As such, when the above is considered, the Department is refusing this element of your request by way of section 23(1) (information supplied by bodies dealing with security matters). For further information on Section 23 (information supply by bodies dealing with security matters) exemption under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act please visit the independent regulators, the Information Commissioner's Office, website: Section 23 – Security bodies The information is also considered exempt by way of Section 40(2) (personal data) as it consists of personal information, these person(s) could not reasonably expect that their personal information would be disclosed; therefore, in doing so would breach current data protection legislation. For further information on Section 40 (personal data) exemption under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act please visit the independent regulators, the Information Commissioner's Office, website: Section 40 - Personal Data
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/122
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>Please provide the following information relating to the NIO Constitution and Rights Policy Group -</i> <i>1. A list of all the individuals, organisations, interest groups and political representatives the Group has met with in the last three years</i> <i>2. The date and purpose of each of these meetings</i> <i>3. Which of these meetings were attended by the SoS</i>

	4. <i>A list of any meetings the Group has declined</i>
Response	It has been estimated by the Department that to fully satisfy this information request would exceed the appropriate limit as provided for in Section 12 of the FOIA, which has been set at £600 for central government departments. Your request, therefore, is being refused at this time by way of Section 12 of the FOIA by the Northern Ireland Office. As is standard practice in many organisations, staff in the Constitution and Rights Policy Group keep individual calendars during the lifetime of their tenures. There is no centralised record of engagements. The information held does not extend to the purpose of all meetings, or any list of meetings staff in the Group have declined. Collecting all available calendar information, sorting it to comply with the provisions of the FOIA and to match the criteria set out in your request would exceed the limit. If you would consider more clearly defining your criterion, for example, by being more specific about your area of policy interest or an enquiry about a meeting with a specific group, we may be able to answer a refined request within the cost limit. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a refined request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that we will hold the information in any refined criteria. For further information on Section 12 (appropriate limit) of the FOIA please visit the independent regulators, the Information Commissioner's Office, website: Section 12 guidance You also asked about meetings the Secretary of State had attended. It may interest you to know that information about Ministers' meetings, hospitality and travel is disclosed on GOV.UK. The most recently quarterly disclosure is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nio-secretary-of-state-and-junior-ministers-hospitality-meetings-and-travel-january-to-march-2021
FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/123
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>This is an information request relating to the use of credit cards by departmental staff.</i> <i>Please provide the following information for 2020-21:</i> <i>How much money has been paid to credit cards firms for credit cards used by departmental staff?</i>

	• <i>How much money was spent on late fees on credit cards for departmental staff?</i> • <i>Have any 'points' or other reward and/or loyalty points been redeemed by departmental staff for non-work purposes?</i> • <i>If any such reward and/or loyalty points have been redeemed, what is the estimated value?</i>
Response	In your clarification email of the 28th July 2021, you confirmed your request was in relation to personal credit cards assigned to individuals and that you were also interested to know if any corporate cards maintained by the department are government procurement cards, or are cards supplied by private companies. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and I can confirm that the department has not spent anything on credit cards by departmental staff in the year 2020-21, NIO departmental staff do not hold any credit cards. The Department does however hold one corporate card which is a government procurement card.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/124																			
Month Issued	August 2021																			
Request	<i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. I would like to request the following information:</i> <i>Since 25th May 2018 to the day this request is processed, for each data protection breach, I would like:</i> <i>1. The date of when the data protection breach took place.</i> <i>2. A description of the data protection breach. Please provide details of what happened.</i> <i>3. A description of how the department responded to the data protection breach e.g. what actions did the department undertake in reaction to the breach.</i> <i>4. Please indicate whether the department notified the Information Commissioner’s Office, and if so, please provide the date when the department notified the ICO.</i> <i>5. If the department notified the ICO later than 72 hours after becoming aware of the data protection breach, please provide reasons as to why there was a delay.</i>																			
Response	Please find the requested information below. <table><tr><th>Q1</th><th>Q2</th><th>Q3</th><th>Q4</th><th>Q5</th></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>Lost phone (encrypted)</td><td>Removed from network/blocked</td><td>No</td><td>n/a</td></tr><tr><td>Dec-19</td><td>Stolen laptop (encrypted)</td><td>Reported to police, blocked from network</td><td>No</td><td>n/a</td></tr></table>					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	2018	Lost phone (encrypted)	Removed from network/blocked	No	n/a	Dec-19	Stolen laptop (encrypted)	Reported to police, blocked from network	No	n/a
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5																
2018	Lost phone (encrypted)	Removed from network/blocked	No	n/a																
Dec-19	Stolen laptop (encrypted)	Reported to police, blocked from network	No	n/a																

	Jan-20	Stolen laptop (encrypted)	Reported to police, blocked from network	No	n/a
	Mar-20	iPad lost/stolen (encrypted)	Reported to police, blocked from network	No	n/a
	Aug-20	Lost phone (encrypted)	Removed from network/blocked	No	n/a
	Sep-20	2 faulty phones, 2 faulty laptops and 2 phones stolen (all encrypted)	Reported to police, blocked from network	No	n/a

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/125
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>It is reported in the press that the EU dropped 800 new regulations on Northern Ireland without notice.</i> <i>Under Freedom of Information Rules I request a copy of these regulations.</i>
Response	Information you have requested is exempt under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and the Northern Ireland Office is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information. The information is available at: • Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland - the annexes, which begin on page 16, to the document set out the EU legislation that continues to apply in Northern Ireland. • The text of all relevant EU legislation/regulations can be found on the EUR-Lex website. Further to the above, you may be interested in the Government's proposed way forward on the Ireland / Northern Ireland Protocol, including any areas where EU law is applied or replicated in Northern Ireland. The Government has proposed a stronger requirement on the EU to provide advance notice of planned legislation within the scope of the Protocol, as well as a requirement to provide the UK with an assessment of the proposal's impact on Northern Ireland. These proposals can be found in the July 2021 Command Paper.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/126
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to know</i>

	<i>The total number of domestic flights, excluding journeys to and from Northern Ireland, taken by Ministers of the department in the following years: a) 2019, b) 2020, and c) 2021 to date.</i> <i>The information for domestic flights in 2019 should be broken down into a) flights taken in January to July 2019 (or Q1 and Q2), and b) flights taken in July 2019- January 2020 (or Q3 and Q4).</i>
Response	We have conducted a search of our records and can advise that there were no domestic flights (flights between England, Scotland and Wales), excluding journeys to and from Northern Ireland during the period you have asked for.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/128
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>Please can you provide the following information:</i> <i>Does the Northern Ireland Office currently use Hikvision cameras in its offices?</i> <i>If yes, how many Hikvision cameras are currently installed in the Northern Ireland Office?</i> <i>How much has the Northern Ireland Office spent on Hikvision cameras from 2010 to 2021?</i> <i>Does the Northern Ireland Office use any other technology produced by Hikvision?</i>
Response	In response to your enquiry: - The Northern Ireland Office can confirm that it does not use any Hikvision cameras or any other Hikvision technology.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/129
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>I am writing to request information on the department's mobile phones.</i> <i>According to a former FOI request (ref: FOI2021/14423) HM Treasury mobile phones must be reset when they are automatically locked should the wrong password be entered several times.</i> <i>I would like to request the following:</i> <i>Does the same policy apply in your department?</i> <i>If so, how many times were mobile phones reset in your department because the password was incorrectly entered in 2020 and 2019? (please present the two years separately)</i> <i>How many mobile phones were there in issue from your department in 2020 and 2019? (please present the two years separately)</i>

Response	In response to your enquiry: - For questions 1 and 2, the Northern Ireland Office can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act does not apply, by virtue of sections 31(1)(a) and 31(3)(a) that relates to law enforcement and the prevention of crime. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist. Section 31 is a prejudice based exemption and is subject to the public interest test. With regard to your request, we recognise the public interest in knowing whether the government holds particular information. Balanced against this, is the public interest in not releasing information that would aid a criminal intent on launching cyber-attacks on the Department's IT systems. In this case we consider that the wider public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying that information, which may have been disclosed in an unauthorised manner, is held. For question 3, our reporting tool cannot supply figures for previous years; our current amount of mobile phones active within the last 90 days would be 228.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/130
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>This email contains two FOI requests relating to the recently published Command Paper CP 498 July 2021 presented to Parliament by the SOSNI entitled "Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past".</i> <i>Request 1: Paragraph 10 of this Command Paper reads (emphasis added):</i> <i>10. It is the Government's view that persisting with a criminal justice approach to the Troubles is in stark tension with the wider aims and aspirations envisaged in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and the Stormont House Agreement of promoting societal reconciliation through acknowledgement of wrongs - on all sides - and acceptance of different narratives and information recovery. This view has been developed and informed through careful consideration and discussion with a range of stakeholders to date.</i> <i>This is request for:</i>

	a. <i>What information does the NIO hold (including the titles of documents and papers) that captures the ‘careful consideration’ that has led to the Government view that a criminal justice approach to legacy is in stark tension with the aims and aspirations of the GFA and SHA.</i> b. <i>Copies of documents captured by request 1a.</i> c. <i>What information does the NIO hold (including the titles of documents and papers) that captures the ‘discussion with a range of stakeholders’ that has led to the Government view that a criminal justice approach to legacy is in stark tension with the aims and aspirations of the GFA and SHA.</i> d. <i>Copies of documents captured by request 1d, with names redacted as necessary to protect personal data.</i> <i>Request 2: page 21 of the document makes the following claim: “Security Forces were responsible for around 10% of Troubles-related deaths - the vast majority of which were lawful..”</i> a. <i>What information does the NIO hold (including the titles of documents and papers) that provides an assessment or analysis supporting the claim that the “vast majority” of Troubles-related deaths at the hands of the security forces were ‘lawful’</i> b. <i>Copies of documents captured by request 2a.</i> <i>All the above requests are restricted to documents in the form of policy papers or submissions, advisory documents, minutes or other records of meetings, submissions to ministers and similar documents. It excludes emails and other communications between officials.</i> <i>All requests are time restricted to the mandate of the present (British) Government, that is from December 2019 to present.</i>
Response	It has been estimated by the Department that to fully satisfy element one of this information request would exceed the appropriate limit as set out at section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. Your request, therefore, is being refused at this time by way of section 12 (appropriate limit) of the Freedom of Information Act by the Northern Ireland Office. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would likely exceed the “appropriate limit”. The “appropriate limit” for the purposes of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act has been set at £600 for central government departments. To fully satisfy this element of your request would require a manual review of all paper and electronically held information (staff and shared email inboxes, drives and servers).

	It is this lengthy review, in both terms of historical date range and volume of information, which has been estimated by the Department, would likely exceed the above-mentioned appropriate limit. This is especially true when one considers the additional parameters placed on the request. Once a review of potentially held information has been undertaken it would be necessary to conduct a secondary review to locate only that information which represented 'careful consideration.' It may be that we can provide you with some information within this appropriate limit, if you are able to narrow the scope of your request. The following may help in your decisions as to the nature of any reframed information request you may wish to re-submit: • Refine the time frame of your request • Limit the request to only one of the following; policy papers or submissions, advisory documents, minutes or other records of meetings, submissions to ministers and similar documents. • Specifying what text/content the documents you are requesting should obtain. It should be noted that if you did re-submit a reframed question there is still the possibility that this refined request could also be subject to the application of the section 12 provisions (or indeed any of the other in-built Freedom of Information Act exemptions). If this is the case then of course we will endeavour to continue to assist you as much as possible in order to bring your request under the appropriate limit. If you do re-submit a request it will be handled as a new request under the appropriate legislation. For further information on Section 12 (appropriate limit) of the Freedom of Information Act please visit the independent regulators, the Information Commissioners Office, website: Section 12 guidance
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/133
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	1. <i>If I could submit a new FOI request for all emails and communications to and from the Minister Brandon Lewis which contain the word Loyalist or Loyalists, for one calendar week before and one calendar week after the meeting outlined in FOI/21/86. If it is too much of a struggle for the department to locate non electronic communications, then I would accept</i>

	<i>a search of the Ministers email communications both incoming and outgoing for the specified keywords. If the Minister makes use of a private email account for department communications then I would request these are also searched.</i> 2. <i>I would also request another new FOI request for all emails and communications to and from the Permanent Secretary which contain the word Loyalist or Loyalists, for one calendar week before and one calendar week after the meeting outlined in FOI/21/86. If it is too much of a struggle for the department to locate non electronic communications, then I would accept a search of the Permanent Secretary's email communications both incoming and outgoing for the specified keywords.</i> 3. <i>I would also request another new FOI request for all emails and communications to and from the Special Advisers to the Minister Brandon Lewis which contain the word Loyalist or Loyalists, for one calendar week before and one calendar week after the meeting outlined in FOI/21/86. If it is too much of a struggle for the department to locate non electronic communications, then I would accept a search of the Special Advisers email communications both incoming and outgoing for the specified keywords. If the SpAds makes use of a private email account for department communications then I would request these are also searched.</i>
Response	It has been estimated by the Department that to fully satisfy this information request would exceed the appropriate limit as set out at section 12 (appropriate limit) of the Freedom of Information Act. Your request, therefore, is being refused at this time by way of section 12 (appropriate limit) of the Freedom of Information Act by the Northern Ireland Office. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would likely exceed the "appropriate limit". The "appropriate limit" for the purposes of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act has been set at £600 for central government departments. To fully satisfy your request would require a manual review of all paper and all electronically held information (staff and shared email inboxes, drives and servers). It is this lengthy review, in both terms of potential volume of information, which has been estimated by the Department, would likely exceed the above-mentioned appropriate limit. It may be that we can provide you with some information within this appropriate limit, if you are able to narrow the scope of your request.

	The following may help in your decisions as to the nature of any reframed information request you may wish to resubmit: Limit your request to only emails still fully maintained by Minister Brandon Lewis, the Permanent Secretary and Special Advisers within their sent/from inboxes. • Additionally, owing to the length of correspondence connected to this enquiry, we would be grateful if you could definitively state the date-range you are interested in. It should be noted that if you did re-submit a reframed question there is still the possibility that this refined request could also be subject to the application of the section 12 provisions (or in-deed any of the other in-built Freedom of Information Act exemptions). If this is the case then of course we will endeavour to continue to assist you as much as possible in order to bring your request under the appropriate limit. If you do re-submit a request it will be handled as a new request under the appropriate legislation. For further information on Section 12 (appropriate limit) of the Freedom of Information Act please visit the independent regulators, the Information Commissioners Office, website; Section 12 guidance
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/135
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act.</i> <i>Please could you provide me with the following information regarding CCTV and other hardware used by the department:</i> • <i>Does the department own any CCTV cameras or other hardware manufactured by Hikvision, Dahua or Huawei?</i> • <i>If so, can you specify what type of hardware and how many of this item the department own in relation to each company?</i> • <i>If relevant, the total number and value of contracts issued by the department in relation to each company (either through the company itself or one of its UK distributors) since January 1, 2015.</i> • <i>Has the department ever used facial recognition technology and are there any plans to do so in the future?</i> • <i>If this is the case, please list any technology providers in use or under consideration.</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland Office can confirm that it does not use any of the mentioned CCTV manufacturers and that it has not, and has no plans to, use facial recognition technology.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/136
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Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>I would like to make a Freedom of Information request relating to Geoffrey Dickens MP please. Please can you send me all papers relating to Mr Dickens?</i>
Response	We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that following a review of all electronic and paper based records is has been responsibly determined that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold information that you have asked for. I should like to take this opportunity to note that it is not within our remit to hold such information.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/137
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>Please provide the following information relating to the NIO Constitution and Rights Policy Group –</i> <i>• A list of all the individuals, organisations, interest groups and political representatives the Group has met with in the [past year]</i> <i>• The date and purpose of each of these meetings</i> <i>• Which of these meetings were attended by the SoS</i> <i>• A list of any meetings the Group has declined</i>
Response	We appreciate that you have adjusted your criteria and shortened the time frame of your previous request. However, it has been estimated by the Department that this would still exceed the appropriate limit as provided for in Section 12 of the FOIA, which has been set at £600 for central government departments. Your request, therefore, is being refused at this time by way of Section 12 of the FOIA by the Northern Ireland Office. Please also be advised that some of the information you have requested we do not hold, which was detailed in our last correspondence and is set out again below: As is standard practice in many organisations, staff in the Constitution and Rights Policy Group keep individual calendars during the lifetime of their tenures. There is no centralised record of engagements. The information held does not extend to the purpose of all meetings, or any list of meetings staff in the Group have declined. Collecting all available calendar information, sorting it to comply with the provisions of the FOIA and to match the criterion set out in your request would exceed the limit.

	You also requested information about Ministers' meetings, which is publicly available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nio-secretary-of-state-and-junior-ministers-hospitality-meetings-and-travel-january-to-march-2021 If you would consider a narrower time frame or more clearly defining your criteria, for example, by being more specific about your area of policy interest or an enquiry about a meeting with a specific group/organisation, we may be able to answer a refined request within the cost limit. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a refined request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that we will hold the information in any refined criteria. For further information on Section 12 (appropriate limit) of the FOIA please visit the independent regulators, the Information Commissioner's Office, website: Section 12 guidance
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/138
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>I am writing with a request under the Freedom of Information Act.</i> <i>Please provide all documentation held by the NIO that pertains to the company Dalradian Resources and its planning application for a goldmine in the Sperrin Mountains.</i> <i>This should include, but not be limited to, correspondence, calendar events, minutes of meetings and any reports/memos regarding the company and its plans.</i> <i>To narrow the scope of your search, I should be grateful if you would focus on the years 2018 to present day.</i> <i>You may be aware that Dalradian has submitted the largest planning application in Northern Ireland's history, which is to be subject to a public inquiry in the coming months. Its plans are an issue of significant public interest.</i>
Response	'Planning' is devolved to the Department of Infrastructure, and the Infrastructure Minister, Nichola Mallon has confirmed that the planning application for the Dalradian mine project will be the subject of an independent Public Inquiry. Further information can be found here: https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/mallon-dalradian-gold-mine-project-will-be-subject-public-inquiry

However, for the Northern Ireland Office to fully satisfy your information request, we estimate that the appropriate cost limit as set out at section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, would be exceeded. Your request, therefore, is being refused at this time by way of section 12 (appropriate limit) of the Freedom of Information Act by the Northern Ireland Office.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would likely exceed the “appropriate limit”. The “appropriate limit” for the purposes of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act has been set at £600 for central government departments.

As is standard practice in many organisations, NIO staff keep individual calendars and inboxes during the lifetime of their tenures. There is no centralised record of engagements. Collecting all available correspondence, calendar data, along with minutes, reports, memos and *any* other information ‘in scope’, sorting it to comply with the provisions of the FOIA and to match the criteria set out in your request would exceed the limit. Therefore, in order to fully satisfy your request a manual review of all paper and all electronically held information (staff and shared email inboxes, drives and servers) would be required.

It is this lengthy review, in both terms of historical date range and volume of information, which has been estimated by the Department, would likely exceed the above-mentioned appropriate limit. You should not infer that we hold a large amount of information relating to your area of interest, only that we would need to carry out a lengthy and wide search to determine whether we hold any information relevant to your request.

It may be that we can provide you with some information within this appropriate limit, if you are able to narrow the scope of your request.

The following may help in your decisions as to the nature of any reframed information request you may wish to re-submit:

If you would consider a narrower time frame and/or more clearly defining your criteria, for example, by being more specific about a particular correspondence, meeting or event, we may be able to answer a refined request within the cost limit. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a refined request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that we will hold the information in any refined criteria.

It should be noted that if you did re-submit a reframed question there is still the possibility that this refined request could also be subject to the application of the section 12 provisions (or in-deed any of the other in-built Freedom of Information Act

	exemptions). If this is the case then of course we will endeavour to continue to assist you as much as possible in order to bring your request under the appropriate limit. If you do re-submit a request it will be handled as a new request under the appropriate legislation. For further information on Section 12 (appropriate limit) of the Freedom of Information Act please visit the independent regulators, the Information Commissioners Office, website: Section 12 guidance
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/143
Month Issued	August 2021
Request	<i>Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, could you please tell me how many Perspex screens have been purchased for use by your department since 23 March 2020?</i> <i>Could you please give me the purchases grouped by month with the overall cost of spending on Perspex screens per month along with a list of total items purchased?</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland Office have purchased no Perspex screens since 23 rd March 2020.