

MAY 2021 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSES

Year	Month	FOI Reference	Topic
2021	May	FOI/21/053	Staff surveys: harassment and bullying data
2021	May	FOI/21/054	Staff headcount
2021	May	FOI/21/055	Spending on newspapers
2021	May	FOI/21/056	Spending on photographic services
2021	May	FOI/21/057	Communications Team personnel
2021	May	FOI/21/058	Communications Team personnel costs
2021	May	FOI/21/059	Spending on Union Jack flags
2021	May	FOI/21/060	ICT internal plans and strategy documentation
2021	May	FOI/21/061	Spending on Union flags
2021	May	FOI/21/062	Cybersecurity training
2021	May	FOI/21/063	Ministerial visits to Northern Ireland
2021	May	FOI/21/064	Spending on flags
2021	May	FOI/21/065	Research funding
2021	May	FOI/21/066	Algorithmic decision-making or filtering programmes
2021	May	FOI/21/068	Ministerial meetings with stakeholders in Northern Ireland
2021	May	FOI/21/069	Senior civil servants: second jobs and conflicts of interest
2021	May	FOI/21/070	Ministerial correspondence on William Shawcross
2021	May	FOI/21/071	Ministerial correspondence with Ryse Hydrogen Ltd, Simply Blue Management (UK) Ltd and MJM Marine Ltd
2021	May	FOI/21/072	Archival file request: covert operations and intelligence gathering
2021	May	FOI/21/073	Departmental vehicles
2021	May	FOI/21/074	Constitution and Rights Policy Group: remit and terms of reference
2021	May	FOI/21/075	Staff wellbeing days
2021	May	FOI/21/076	Ministerial visits to Northern Ireland
2021	May	FOI/21/077	Ministerial constituency visits
2021	May	FOI/21/078	Hillsborough castle: maintenance and furnishing allowances

2021	May	FOI/21/079	Lost or stolen mobile phones
2021	May	FOI/21/081	Terrorism-related offences: prisoners in Northern Ireland

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/053
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>How many staff in each of the last five staff surveys said that they had experienced harassment and or bullying?</i>
Response	In response to your question, I can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for, however this is exempt from disclosure under Sections 21 and 22 of the FOIA. Some of this information is exempt under Section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it via the following links: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nio-people-survey-results-2017 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nio-people-survey-results-2018 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nio-people-survey-results-2019 Results pertaining to the 2016 staff survey in respect of the information you have requested, is found contained within the link for the staff survey of 2017, where previous years' results are shown for comparison. Information relating to the 2020 Staff Survey is exempt from disclosure because it is intended for future publication. We are not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication (Section 22 of the Act). In line with the terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, I have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/054
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>How many senior civil servants worked in the NIO in each of the last 9 years? Please provide this information broken down by grade.</i>
Response	The NIO holds information falling within the scope of your request; however I am unable to comply with your request under Section 21(1) of the FOIA.

	The NIO is not obliged to provide information if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means as defined in Section 21(1) of the FOIA. The terms of this exemption in the FOIA mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information. The information you have requested can be accessed via this link to the Gov.co.uk website where you can search for this information under NIO Annual Report and Accounts.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/055
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>Which daily, weekly and monthly newspapers and magazines does the NIO purchase? How much did you spend on each publication per annum in the latest full year for which information is held?</i>
Response	In response to your query I can confirm that during FY 2020/21 the Northern Ireland Office spent £405 on newspapers and magazines. We do not hold spend information by publication but the titles include: Belfast Telegraph; Irish News; Newsletter.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/056												
Month Issued	May 2021												
Request	<i>How much has the NIO spent on photographic services from companies such as Press Eye, in each of the last 5 years.</i>												
Response	In response to your query I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office spent the following amounts on photographic services: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th><th>Expenditure</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016-17</td><td>£19,964.41</td></tr> <tr> <td>2017-18</td><td>£4,548</td></tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td><td>£26,873.60</td></tr> <tr> <td>2019-20</td><td>£23,006.05</td></tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td><td>£12,740.50</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Expenditure	2016-17	£19,964.41	2017-18	£4,548	2018-19	£26,873.60	2019-20	£23,006.05	2020-21	£12,740.50
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/057
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>How many press/new/comms/media/information officers have you had in each of the last five years, including admin staff supporting such functions? Please supply the requested information by grade.</i>

Response

In response to your query I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office holds the information. The number of communication officers broken down by grade / band and financial year is included in the table below.

Year	SCS2	SCS1	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Total
2016/17	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
2017/18	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	7
2018/19	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	8
2019/20	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	8
2020/21	1	0	3	2	3	0	1	10

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/058
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>How much have you spent on your press/new/comms/media/information officers in each of the last five years?</i>
Response	We are applying exemption 12(4) to this request as this and your other requests (FOI/21/56; FOI/21/57; FOI/21/58) were all received in such close proximity i.e. between 29th March and 6th April 2021. Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent, to the same or similar information, provided certain conditions are met. These are where the FOI requests: - are made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign; - are received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and Under Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, provided these conditions are met, the Department is permitted to regard the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them for the purpose of considering whether complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. It has been estimated that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/059
Month Issued	May 2021

Request	<i>Please can you send me a breakdown on the amount of money your department has spent on Union Jacks in the last 12 months?</i>
Response	In response to your request, the Northern Ireland Office did not purchase any Union flags within the past 12 months.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/060
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>I wish to submit a request for some of the organisation's information around the internal plans and strategy documents around ICT.</i> <i>The ICT documents I require is the most recent update.</i> <i>I wish to obtain the following documents:</i> <i>1. ICT/IM&T/IS Strategy- The IT department strategy or plans, highlights their current and future objectives.</i> <i>2. ICT Org Chart- A visual document that presents the structure of the IT department, please include name and job titles. If this cannot be sent, please work towards a structure with job titles.</i> <i>3. ICT Annual or Business Plan- Like the ICT strategy but is more annually focused.</i> <i>4. ICT Capital Programme/budget- A document that shows financials budget on current and future projects.</i> <i>If some of these documents are not valid, please state when the 2020 onwards ICT documents are planned to be published.</i>
Response	In response to questions 1, 2, 3, and 4 the Northern Ireland Office does not have an IT Department and receives managed ICT services from IT Assist (ITA), which is a service provided by Enterprise Shared Services, a body within the Department of Finance, Northern Ireland. The information requested is, therefore, not held by this Department. Long term capital projects outside the scope of their support are dealt with on a case by case basis.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/061
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details of Union flags purchased by the ministerial department in recent months.</i> <i>Please disclose the following for the period from January 1st 2021 to present:</i> <i>1. The number of Union flags purchased.</i> <i>2. The overall cost of these Union flags.</i>

	3. <i>If possible, any available breakdown detailing their size, individual cost and purpose.</i> 4. <i>Please also provide the above details requested in Q1-3 for any other ministerial departments for which you respond to FOIs on behalf of.</i>
Response	In response to your request, the Northern Ireland Office did not purchase any Union flags from January 1st 2021 to the present date. With regards to point 4, we do not answer for other government departments, please contact these directly.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/062												
Month Issued	May 2021												
Request	<i>I would like to know the following under the FOI Act.</i> <i>Breakdown of all employees within your organisation who have undertaken cybercrime/cyber security training over the last two financial years (FY 19-20 and FY 20-21)</i> <i>Detail on the nature of the course e.g. "e-skills online cyber risk training"</i> <i>Detail on the amount spent on each course</i>												
Response	In response to your first question I have considered your request and 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. In response to your question we are not obliged, under section 40(2) of the Act, to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing it would contravene any of the Data Protection Principles under the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). In this instance we believe that the release of this information would contravene the first data protection principle and therefore section 40(2) is engaged. The terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information. In relation to question two please see the table below for the details of courses: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th><th>Name of course</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/20</td><td>BCS Certificate in Information Security Management Principles (CISMP)</td></tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td><td>SANS Introduction to Cyber Security</td></tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td><td>Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)</td></tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td><td>Cyber Resilience RESILIA Foundation</td></tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td><td>Responsible for Information</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Year	Name of course	2019/20	BCS Certificate in Information Security Management Principles (CISMP)	2019/20	SANS Introduction to Cyber Security	2019/20	Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)	2020/21	Cyber Resilience RESILIA Foundation	2020/21	Responsible for Information
Financial Year	Name of course												
2019/20	BCS Certificate in Information Security Management Principles (CISMP)												
2019/20	SANS Introduction to Cyber Security												
2019/20	Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)												
2020/21	Cyber Resilience RESILIA Foundation												
2020/21	Responsible for Information												

	In regards to question three there was no cost to the department as the funding was supplied by another Government Department.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/063
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>I would like to request information on the number of days spent by Northern Ireland secretaries in Northern Ireland since 2010.</i>
Response	I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office holds some information that you have asked for. However, we cannot disclose this information because the cost of complying with your request would exceed the limit set by the Freedom of Information Act (section 12). Freedom of information law allows us to decline to answer FOI requests when we estimate it would cost us more than £600 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 locate, identify and retrieve the information would cost over £600. We might be able to answer a revised request if you can reconsider the scope of your FOI request, for example by identifying specific topics and a shorter time- frame. However, please note that a revised request may still not fall within the FOIA cost limit. You can find more information by reading the full text of the Act, available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/12

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/064
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	1. <i>The amount spent on purchasing flags in each of the years: 2021 (up to the date of this request), 2020, 2019 and 2018 For the same time periods, please provide a separate breakdown for spending on the following flags:</i> <i>The Union Flag</i> <i>St George's flag</i> <i>The flag of the European Union</i>
Response	In response to your request, the Northern Ireland Office has not purchased any flags in the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/065
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Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>This is an information request relating to research funding by your department.</i> <i>I would like to request the following information:</i> <i>a. What process or criteria is followed when research funding is granted by your department?</i> <i>b. Please include:</i> <i>1. Whether efficacy of the research is taken into account.</i> <i>2. Are certain universities/institutions prioritised over others?</i> <i>3. Are risks to taxpayers weighed before giving funding?</i> <i>4. Are funding opportunities genuinely competitive or is there a restriction on who can apply for funding?</i>
Response	I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office does not hold information that you have asked for. We have interpreted your request to mean that you want information relating to the process we follow when we grant funding for research. The NIO does not offer grant funding, therefore we do not hold any information on this matter.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/066
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i> <i>I have recently seen use of the government built programme Spotlight used in ministerial departments. The programme was designed by the Cabinet Office and uses algorithms and automated functions to process grant applications, as far as I have been made aware.</i> <i>I am interested in what other programmes similar to this that your department uses, which are based on algorithmic decision-making or filtering. Please provide me with a list of names of programmes that your department currently uses (or has used in the past year, since March 2020), alongside who built it (i.e. the name of the company, or the government department), and what it is used for.</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/21/068
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am seeking the following:</i> <i>The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's diary/calendar of meetings (in-person and virtual) with individuals and groups based in Northern Ireland between 29th March 2021 and 15th April 2021.</i> <i>Briefing notes provided to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in relation to all meetings (virtual and in-person) with individuals and groups based in Northern Ireland between 29th March 2021 and 15th April 2021.</i>
Response	We are withholding this information under Section 22 and section 35 of the Freedom of information Act. The calendar information you request will be published in line with transparency requirements. The briefing notes you request are exempt under section 35 as they relate to the formulation of Government policy. The calendar information you have requested is being withheld as it is exempt under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 22(1) protects information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours maintaining the exemption in section 22(1) or disclosing the information. Section 22 requires a public interest test. The information you have requested will be published at a later date. There is a risk that responding to your request and producing this smaller set of information separately would delay production and publication of the larger set of information thereby delaying public access to all NIO's FOI releases. Taking into consideration the government's transparency aims we feel the public interest lies in ensuring publication in full at the earliest opportunity and therefore in applying this exemption. The briefing information you have requested is exempt under section 35(1)(a) and (b) of the Freedom of Information Act, which protects the formulation of policy and communications between Ministers. Disclosure would weaken Ministers' ability to discuss controversial and sensitive topics free from premature public scrutiny. Section 35 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours our release of this material. 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 recognise that the decisions Ministers make may have a significant impact on the lives of citizens and there is a public interest in their deliberations being transparent. These public interests have to be weighed against a strong public interest that policy-making and its implementation are of the highest quality and informed by a full consideration of all the options. Ministers must be able to discuss policy freely and frankly,

	exchange views on available options and understand their possible implications. The candour of all involved would be affected by their assessment of whether the content of the discussions will be disclosed prematurely. If discussions were routinely made public there is a risk that Ministers may feel inhibited from being frank and candid with one another. As a result the quality of debate underlying collective decision making would decline, leading to worse informed and poorer decision making. Taking into account all the circumstances of this case, I have concluded that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/069
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information:</i> <i>1. Please disclose how many senior civil servants (SCS grade) in your department were employed by another company/body whilst in the employment of the civil service in each of the following years:</i> <i>a. 2015</i> <i>b. 2016</i> <i>c. 2017</i> <i>d. 2018</i> <i>e. 2019</i> <i>f. 2020</i> <i>g. 2021 to date</i> <i>2. Please disclose in how many of the cases identified in the response to Q1a-g was the secondary employer Greensill Capital.</i> <i>3. In each case identified in the response to Q1a-g, please provide the rank of the senior civil servant (Deputy Director, Director General etc) and the name of the company/body by whom they were also employed.</i> <i>4. Please disclose how many violations of civil service conflict of interest regulations in relation to such employments' (either Civil Service Code violations or breaches of departmental rules on conflict of interest) by senior civil servants (SCS grade) in your department were recorded in each of the years:</i> <i>a. 2015</i> <i>b. 2016</i> <i>c. 2017</i> <i>d. 2018</i>

	e. 2019 f. 2020 g. 2021 to date 5. Please disclose the register of conflicts of interest in your department for senior civil servants (SCS grade) as of 1st January in the following years: a. 2015 b. 2016 c. 2017 d. 2018 e. 2019 f. 2020 g. 2021
Response	I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office holds the information that you have asked for. For question 1, we have interpreted employment by another company/body to mean any outside activity that is remunerated. There were no declarations of other employment from officials in the SCS grades for the period 2015-2021. For question 2, there were no cases identified. For question 3, there were no cases identified. For question 4, there were no violations recorded. For question 5, the Northern Ireland Office holds a register of interests for its board members, made available on request. For non-board members at SCS grade, the information you have requested is being withheld because it is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene data protection principle (a), which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the Northern Ireland Office is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information. For board members at SCS grade, the register of interests is as follows:

Northern Ireland Office Register of Interests**2015/16**

Name	Role	Body	Position Held
Colin Perry	Director	Dasic Marine Ltd	Non-Executive Director

2016/17

Name	Role	Body	Position Held
Colin Perry	Director	Dasic Marine Ltd	Non-Executive Director

2017/18

Name	Role	Body	Position Held
Colin Perry	Director	Dasic Marine Ltd	Non-Executive Director

2018/19

No SCS interests declared at board level

2019/20

Name	Role	Body	Position Held
Madeleine Alessandri	PUS	Civil Service Retirement Fellowship	Chair

2020/21

Name	Role	Body	Position Held
Madeleine Alessandri	PUS	Civil Service Retirement Fellowship	Chair

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/070
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>I would like to request any correspondence sent by Northern Ireland Office ministers to Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ministers or civil servants mentioning "Shawcross" or "William Shawcross".</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.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/071
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>I would like any correspondence (letters, emails, text messages, phone transcripts) between Julian Smith MP and the following companies during his time as secretary of state for Northern Ireland. This was between July 24, 2019 and February 13, 2020.</i> <i>The companies are:</i> • <i>Ryse Hydrogen Ltd</i> • <i>Simply Blue Management (UK) Ltd</i> • <i>MJM Marine Ltd</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/21/072
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the release of the following Northern Ireland Office records. These records are:</i> • <i>CJ 4/3454</i> • <i>CJ 4/3470</i> • <i>CJ 4/4573</i> • <i>CJ 4/4845</i> <i>According to the National Archives catalogue each of these records was originally closed or retained by the Cabinet Office, under Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958.</i> <i>I have checked on your website and in the National Archives catalogue and none of these records has yet been released.</i>
Response	We confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for, but 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. 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
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/073
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>I am writing to you under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to request the following information:</i> <i>A list of the vehicles operated by the department or its executive agencies or related non-departmental public bodies that share FOI resources, including:</i> <i>1. Make and model (Inc. year) OR if not available, the vehicle type (i.e. van, car etc.)</i> <i>2. Engine and fuel type</i>

	3. Emissions class (i.e. whether it is ultra-low emissions) and the emissions in g/km of CO2, if possible 4. Purchase date 5. The agency/unit/NDPB which operates the vehicle Please include as much of this information as is readily available. If it is not possible to compile a full list, for whatever reason, I would consider a breakdown of all the vehicles by points (2) and (3) to fulfil the request, subject to the condition below. Please only include results for non-specialist vehicles that fall within the scope of the Government Fleet Commitment or note whether a vehicle falls within the scope. This is sometimes defined as cars or 'M1' vehicles, a United Nations vehicle standard. This may be the category used for vehicle type in point (1) in which case you can consider this part of the request satisfied.
Response	Please see below details of NIO car as requested 1. Make and model (Inc. year) OR if not available, the vehicle type (i.e. van, car etc.) - Ford Mondeo (2018) 2. Engine and fuel type - 2.0 Diesel 3. Emissions class (i.e. ultra-low emissions) - Euro emissions standard 6. 130 g/km 4. Purchase date - Not purchased - Leased. Commencing 16/08/18. 5. The agency/unit/NDPB which operates the vehicle - Northern Ireland Office

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/074
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	I should be grateful if you would respond to the following FOI request- 1. What is the remit of the Constitution and Rights Policy Group? 2. What were the Terms of Reference for its establishment? 3. By what criteria were individuals selected to sit on this Group? 4. Who are the members of the Group? 5. How often does it meet? 6. Where are its minutes published?
Response	In regards to Question 1, I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office holds the information that you have asked for. The Constitution and Rights Policy Group is a team in the Northern Ireland Office. The Constitution and Rights Policy Group contributes to the Northern Ireland Office's priority outcomes of:

	• Society – Supporting greater inclusion, tolerance, and openness in Northern Ireland • Governance – Ensuring that governance in Northern Ireland is responsive, transparent, and able to deliver effective public services In regards to Questions 2-6, we have interpreted your request to mean that the Constitution and Rights Policy Group is a committee that meets regularly. As the Constitution and Rights Policy Group is a team with permanent staff, it does not have a membership or selection criteria, terms of reference, members, a schedule of meetings, or minutes. The Northern Ireland Office therefore does not hold the information that you have asked for in Questions 2-6.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/075
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>Please could you provide me with information regarding the introduction of any wellbeing days or mental health days for the employees in your department? By wellbeing days, I mean days off given to employees to help them prioritise wellness or mental health. Some companies have introduced these days in response to the stress of the pandemic.</i> <i>I would like to know:</i> <i>Have you introduced a wellbeing day for your employees?</i> <i>If so, does this apply to all your employees or just some?</i> <i>When was it introduced?</i> <i>Can the wellbeing day be taken off by employees at any time of year, or is there a specific date when everyone takes the day off together?</i> <i>Why did you introduce a wellbeing day?</i>
Response	The NIO takes staff welfare extremely seriously and recognising staff wellbeing is an ongoing priority within the department, especially during the covid pandemic. The NIO has not introduced a wellbeing day off. However, we have provided our people with a range of advice, guidance and sessions on wellbeing. Wellbeing tips are also available to staff through our Staff Wellbeing Guide, through which they can be signposted to other external sources of support.

	NIO staff also have access to confidential support through the Employee Assistance Programme, as well as support from the Mental Health First Aiders.
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FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/076
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>I write to ask under FOI entitlement questions about Brandon Lewis discharging his duties as SoS for NI since he was appointed</i> 1. How many complete days has he spent in NI? 2. How many visits of less than one complete day has he made? 3. How many overnights has he spent in NI as SoS?
Response	We have conducted a search of our records and can confirm the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland spent (i) 39 complete days in Northern Ireland; (ii) 17 trips of less than 1 complete day; and (iii) 26 overnights in Northern Ireland during the period. Ministerial travel during this period was impacted by covid restrictions and conducted in line with government guidance.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/077
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>I would like to know how many times Brandon Lewis visited his constituency of Great Yarmouth between February 13, 2020, and the end of that month according to his ministerial diary.</i>
Response	We are withholding this information under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of information Act. The information you request is of a personal nature relating to the Secretary of State's visits to his constituency, where he also lives. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene data protection principle (a), which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the Northern Ireland Office is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/078
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>Please could I request the following information under the FOI act?</i> <i>Does the Northern Ireland Secretary receive an allowance for costs associated with maintaining and furnishing his official residence – Hillsborough Castle? If yes:</i>

	- How much is that allowance? And is it an annual payment? - Please can I receive a breakdown of what has been spent from that budget, from July 24th 2019 to the present day?
Response	In relation to you question the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland does not receive an allowance for maintenance or furnishing his official residence at Hillsborough Castle. There has been no spend since July 24 th 2019.

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/079																				
Month Issued	May 2021																				
Request	1. How many officially issued mobile phones have been reported lost or stolen in the NIO for each of the last five years? 2. What is the value of the loss?																				
Response	1. How many officially issued mobile phones have been reported lost or stolen in the NIO for each of the last five years? Please see table below. 2. What is the value of the loss? Please see table below. We have taken this to mean the replacement value rather than the actual values at time of theft/loss. <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Number of officially issued mobile phones lost or stolen</th><th>Replacement value</th></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>5</td><td>£1,764.15</td></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>1</td><td>£352.83</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr></table>			Year	Number of officially issued mobile phones lost or stolen	Replacement value	2020	5	£1,764.15	2019	0	0	2018	1	£352.83	2017	0	0	2016	0	0
Year	Number of officially issued mobile phones lost or stolen	Replacement value																			
2020	5	£1,764.15																			
2019	0	0																			
2018	1	£352.83																			
2017	0	0																			
2016	0	0																			

FOI Request Reference	FOI/21/081
Month Issued	May 2021
Request	<i>With this email I would like to make a request for the following data:</i> <i>Number of offenders in prison in Northern Ireland for terrorism-related offences from 1970 to today (both convicted and awaiting trial, if applicable).</i>
Response	The Northern Ireland Office does not hold this information. The prison system is a devolved matter in Northern Ireland and as such this information should be held by the Prison Service of Northern Ireland in the Department of Justice. You may wish to

	write to them for this information. Their address can be found at the following link: https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/submit-freedom-information-request-northern-ireland-prison-service
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