



Department of
Justice
www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Department of Justice
Freedom of Information Team
Information Services Division
Block 5
Knockview Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SL

Email: foi@justice-ni.gov.uk

29 March 2024

REFERENCE: FOI\24\26

Dear Madam

Thank you for your request for information dated 5th March 2024 and detailed below.

Dear Department of Justice,

I'd like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for all of your entity's transactions over £25,000 for January 2020 to January 2024.

Please provide the data in a machine readable format (preferably csv). As a minimum, please make sure to include the date, value and recipient of each transaction. Please also provide details on the procurement category of each transaction if you have it.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email and I will be happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives you two rights of access when you write to us asking for information. You have the right to know whether we hold the information that you are looking for, and you have the right to have the information given

to you. These rights may only be overridden if the information you are looking for is covered by an exemption in the Act.

I am pleased to enclose the majority of the information requested in the attached excel file, including the transaction amount, date paid and procurement category of all relevant transactions for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 January 2024.

To note:

- The information provided relates only to transactions for the Core Department of Justice (DoJ) – transactions relating to Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies are not included;
- The information provided relates only to procurement related transactions, where the Department has paid for goods and services. All other payments, such as grant and compensation related payments, have been excluded;
- Supplier names have been redacted under exemptions provided by the FOI Act (please see below); and
- The procurement category of each transaction has been supplied using the segment level from the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC) to classify the product or service.

In accordance with our obligations under the FOI Act, the following exemption has been applied:

Section 38: Health & Safety

Section 38 (Health & Safety) is a qualified exemption therefore we are required to consider whether the public interest in withholding information outweighs the public interest in releasing it. Please find the results of the public interest test as follows:

In favour of release:

The DoJ accepts that there is a public interest in placing as much information as possible in the public domain which will allow for debate and improve transparency and accountability. The public have a general interest in information that increases its knowledge and understanding of how Government works.

In favour of non-disclosure:

Given the sensitive nature of some of the work carried out by the DoJ, some individual or corporate suppliers might be, or might likely be, exposed to increased risk of targeting or attack should their involvement with the DoJ be made public. The risk of attack or targeting could vary depending on where the supplier is based, the nature of the business and the security situation at any given time. There is obviously a strong public interest in avoiding risks to individual and corporate suppliers, and those individuals associated with suppliers, either directly as employees or indirectly as members of employee's families.

Conclusion:

On balance the public interest is weighed in favour of non-disclosure of supplier names, in line with exemptions applicable within Section 38: Health & Safety of the FOI Act 2000.

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask him to investigate whether the DoJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Manager