



Department of
Justice
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Máinnystrie O tha Laa
www.justice-ni.gov.uk

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

Email: foi@justice-ni.gov.uk

12 March 2024

REFERENCE: FOI24117

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 13th February 2024 as follows:

Under the FOI Act I would like to ask for the total amount paid in settlements following the resolution of all (a) bullying, (b) harassment and (c) discrimination cases by the Department in the (i) 2020-21, (ii) 2021-22 and (iii) 2022-23 financial years.

I would also like to request the same information for the 2023-24 financial year so far.

A breakdown of the total number of payouts in each of the three categories in each financial year would also be helpful.

The Freedom of Information 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 recorded information in scope of your request, and you have the right to have that recorded 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.

It has been estimated that to locate, retrieve and extract the information that might be relevant to your request would involve work considerably more than the appropriate limit. Extracting the relevant information in response to your request would require a trawl through individual files to extract the relevant information. The appropriate limit is

specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents an estimated cost of one person spending 24 working hours, at a cost of £25.00 per hour, to determining whether the Department holds the information, and then retrieve and extract that information. Consequently, the department is not obliged to comply with your request under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information 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