

6 January 2025

REFERENCE: FOI\24\112

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information dated 15 September 2024 in which you requested the following information:

From 2nd May 2019 onwards, please provide details of your policy on the official use and display of the Ulster Banner, or of the former coat of arms of the Government of Northern Ireland. For avoidance of doubt, I attach the following images of the Ulster Banner.

Fig 1. Below: the Ulster Banner (official flag of Northern Ireland from 1953-1973, featuring St. Edward's Crown)



Fig 2. Below: the Ulster Banner (as used on the coat of arms of Northern Ireland from 1924 onwards, featuring the Tudor Crown)



Fig 3. Below: Coat of arms of the Government of Northern Ireland, 1924-1972.



Please advise whether:

- a. The Ulster Banner is flown or displayed on an official basis anywhere by you and/or on your property;*
- b. The former coat of arms of the Government of Northern Ireland (regardless of which version of the Ulster Banner it features) is displayed anywhere by you and/or on your property, including where such display is on a historical, educational or informational basis rather than as a deliberate result of current policy.*

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 falling in scope of your request and you have the right to receive this recorded information subject to cost limit or exemption.

I apologise for the delay in replying to your request. While it is not a DoJ-led policy, I can advise that The Flags Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000, as amended, set out the arrangements for flying of flags at government buildings in Northern Ireland. A copy of the Regulations is available from www.legislation.gov.uk. There is no provision within the Regulations for flying of the Ulster Banner or the Coat of Arms as included within your request.

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 the Commissioner 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

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

Yours sincerely

DoJ Records & Information Manager