



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Máinnystrie O tha Laa

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Department of Justice
Records & Information Team
Information Services Division
Block 5
Knockview Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

20 January 2025

Reference: FOI\24\147

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email dated 19/12/24, in which you make a number of points, including requests for information, as follows:

“What do we have?

- 1. Programme Board that allocates funding to organisations to tackle paramilitary activities**
 - a. What is the expense of board members?**
 - b. Who is on the board?**
 - c. What is the total funding is granted?**
- 2. A Political Advisory Group.**
 - a. What is the expense of advisors?**
 - b. Who are the 5 advisors and how much are each paid (cost allocation)?**
 - c. What are the Executive Parties?**

- **Please provide a list of all consultants and advisors, paid and unpaid. The list is to contain names and associates which can be ticked off against the names associated to any grant programme projects.**
- **Please provide a list of all current programme projects including names of directors and associates who receive funds.”**

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. In order to be helpful, in the following response, we have provided some information outside of our FOI obligations.

RESPONSE

Since your request appears to be in relation to information held by the Executive Programme on Paramilitarism and Organised Crime (EPPOC), the EPPOC Programme Team has provided the following response regarding your request. We hope it is useful.

Question:

“Programme Board that allocates funding to organisations to tackle paramilitary activities:

- What is the expense of board members?
- Who is on the board?
- What is the total funding is granted?”

Response:

The Executive Programme on Paramilitarism and Organised Crime (EPPOC) – originally referred to as the Programme for Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime – was established in 2016. The Programme comprises a large range of projects of varying scale and type. Initiatives range from robust, specialist law enforcement to early interventions that stop vulnerable (young) people and their families being exploited; through to projects that support those dealing with the impact of paramilitary coercion and control, and initiatives that raise awareness, educate and challenge the harms caused by paramilitary activity over the longer term. The Programme is jointly funded by the UK

Government and the Northern Ireland Executive; since its inception it has had an annual budget of approximately £16m.

Phase 1 of the Programme was designed to focus on delivering against the Executive Action Plan on paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime which resulted from the 'Fresh Start' Agreement of 2015. This first phase (from April 2016 to March 2021) was overseen by a cross-Departmental Programme Board established to co-ordinate and assist with the governance and implementation of delivery under the Programme. Membership of the Board comprised representatives of all Executive Departments and the NIO, who undertook this role as part of their departmental duties, receiving no additional remuneration.

Phase 2 of the Programme, which commenced in April 2021, is implementing a 'public health' methodology that requires individual projects to work together to deliver shared, measurable medium and longer term objectives. This Phase is being overseen by a Sponsor Group, chaired by the Head of the Civil Service; core members comprise senior representatives from Executive Departments and organisations and agencies in direct receipt of Programme investment. As with the previous Programme Board, members undertake this role as part of their existing duties and receive no additional remuneration.

Question:

"A Political Advisory Group:

- What is the expense of advisors?
- Who are the 5 advisors and how much are each paid (cost allocation)?
- What are the Executive Parties?"

Response:

Primarily, the Political Advisory Group provides a mechanism for updating political representatives on progress on the strategic delivery of EPPOC; it also provides a forum for members to seek further information, offer advice and provide feedback.

As the Department of Justice leads on co-ordination of EPPOC, meetings of the Political Advisory Group are chaired by the Justice Minister or Senior Responsible Officer (currently the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Justice, Hugh Widdis). Each of the parties that form the Northern Ireland Executive are represented (The "Executive parties"). Members undertake this role as part of their wider duties and receive no additional remuneration from the Programme.

Current membership is as follows:

Sinn Fein	Gerry Kelly and Sean Murray
DUP	Joanne Bunting and Trevor Clarke
Alliance Party	Naomi Long (Chair) and Nuala McAllister
UUP	Doug Beattie and Robbie Butler
SDLP	Alex Attwood and Sinead McLaughlin

Question:

- “Please provide a list of all consultants and advisors, paid and unpaid. The list is to contain names and associates which can be ticked off against the names associated to any grant programme projects.
- Please provide a list of all current programme projects including names of directors and associates who receive funds.”

Response:

These two questions are being taken together as they relate to projects in which the Programme invests. Programmes in receipt of programme investment for 2024/25 are set out below, together with the organisation that leads on delivery and its contact details. Each organisation is responsible for contractual and governance arrangements relating to funding for specific projects; neither DOJ nor EPPOC holds this information centrally. You may wish to contact the organisations directly in relation to your query. If you decide to do so, you may wish to consider refining your enquiry and specifying whether “all consultants and advisors” refers to every person employed or something different, and if so, what. Similarly, it is not clear whether you are referring to individuals listed as company or charity ‘directors and associates’ or something else, or whether this includes funding for their specific posts, or for projects that they are associated with.

Project Title	Lead
Mid & East Antrim Youth Support Hub (multi-agency support for young people at risk)	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council 1-29 Bridge Street Ballymena BT43 5EJ Contact Us Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Paramilitary Crime Task Force (multi-agency law enforcement)	Police Service of Northern Ireland Command Secretariat Police Service of Northern Ireland Police Headquarters Brooklyn 65 Knock Road Belfast BT5 6LE Contact Us Police Service of Northern Ireland
InSync (support for victims of paramilitary harm)	NI Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO) Amelia House 4 Amelia Street Belfast BT2 7GS Contact Details NIACRO
WRAP Family and Educational Support (in areas where paramilitary influence is prevalent)	Department of Education Rathgael House Balloo Road Rathgill Bangor BT19 7PR DE.DEWebMail@education-ni.gov.uk
Developing Women in the Community (in areas where paramilitary influence is prevalent)	Department for Communities Causeway Exchange 1-7 Bedford Street Belfast County Antrim BT2 7EG Feedback Department for Communities
Fresh Start in the Community (a range of projects promoting lawfulness and active citizenship, and building community capacity)	Department for Communities Causeway Exchange 1-7 Bedford Street Belfast County Antrim BT2 7EG Feedback Department for Communities

Centre of Restorative Excellence (scoping work re development of a centre)	Department of Justice Block C, Castle Buildings Stormont Estate Belfast Northern Ireland BT4 3SG Online Form for general queries
Youth Service Projects (a range of youth work projects in partnership with the community)	Department of Education (Education Authority) 40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ info@eani.org.uk Contact Details for other EA Offices
Aspire (working with vulnerable/marginalised young men)	Probation Board NI 80-90 North Street Belfast BT1 1LD Tel: (028) 9052 2522 email: info@probation-ni.gov.uk
Improving Community Safety (in support of violence and harm reduction)	Police Service of Northern Ireland Command Secretariat Police Service of Northern Ireland Police Headquarters Brooklyn 65 Knock Road Belfast BT5 6LE Contact Us Police Service of Northern Ireland
Engage (working with women in custody and in the community)	Probation Board NI 80-90 North Street Belfast BT1 1LD Tel: (028) 9052 2522 email: info@probation-ni.gov.uk
Scoping a Cross Government Trauma Informed Practice Hub (embedding a trauma responsive approach in NI)	Safeguarding Board NI HSC Leadership Centre 12 Hampton Manor Drive Belfast BT7 3EN Tel: 028 9536 1810 Email: SBNI.Info@hscni.net

Child Criminal Exploitation (developing an improved system wide response to Child Criminal Exploitation)	Department of Justice /Department of Health Department of Justice: Block C, Castle Buildings Stormont Estate Belfast Northern Ireland BT4 3SG Use this Online Form for raising any general queries with the Department. Department of Health: Castle Buildings Stormont Belfast Northern Ireland BT4 3SQ Email: webmaster@health-ni.gov.uk
Communities in Transition (increasing community resilience and building capacity)	The Executive Office SD03 Stormont Castle Stormont Estate Belfast BT4 3TT Email: info@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk
Drug Related Intimidation Response Scoping (scoping a service response to the issue of drug related intimidation)	Department of Health/Public Health Agency Department of Health: Castle Buildings Stormont Belfast Northern Ireland BT4 3SQ Email: webmaster@health-ni.gov.uk Public Health Agency: Linenhall Street Unit 12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS Northern Ireland Web: Welcome HSC Public Health Agency

Threat to Life Review (exploring how threats to life are dealt with across the system)

**Executive Programme on
Paramilitarism and Organised
Crime (EPPOC)**

Block 4C

Castle Buildings

Stormont Estate

Belfast

BT4 3SG

EPPOC@endingtheharm.info

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

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

Records & Information Manager