



Department of  
**Justice**  
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Mánnystrie O tha Laa  
[www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk)

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26 April 2024

**REFERENCE: FOI\24\36**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REFEREES 2024**

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department of Justice on the 26 March 2024, detailed below: -

**Request**

1. Can you confirm who the current IMRs are?
2. Can you confirm the length of this contract?

**This response addresses your questions:**

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.

1. Can you confirm who the current IMRs are?

I have not included the supplier names or the IMRs they employ as they cannot be released for security reasons. In Northern Ireland the Department of Justice do not publish details of successful tenderers due to the threat level in Northern Ireland against contractors delivering services to the Authority. **Therefore, this information has been withheld under s38 (Health and Safety) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act.**

### **S38 (Health & Safety) public interest test**

Section 38 (Health and 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 below;

#### ***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 be likely to 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 their 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 as directly as employees or indirectly as members of employee's families.

### **Conclusion:**

We have concluded that the public interest in withholding the names of suppliers falls within the criteria described above for s38 outweighs the public interest in release.

2. Can you confirm the length of this contract?

**The initial period of contract is for three years from the commencement date. There are two further options to extend the contract for periods of one year each.**

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](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Records & Information Manager**