

20th February 2025

REFERENCE: FOI\25\18

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 6th February 2025 and detailed below:

Could the DoJ tell me how many unidentified remains are resting in morgues across Northern Ireland, or that the coroner's office is aware of buried in cemeteries. If possible, could the DoJ provide me with any details regarding each case - if there are any.

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 relation to the information you have requested, I can confirm that there are no unidentified bodies resting within Northern Ireland Regional Forensic Mortuary (NIRFM). This is the only mortuary that sits within the remit of the Department of Justice.

The NIRFM is the only mortuary in Northern Ireland that holds bodies on behalf of the Coroner. There are a number of additional mortuaries within hospitals, who care for deaths within this setting, that are not being referred to the Coroner. NIRFM does not hold the information requested in relation to these mortuaries.

The General Register Office Northern Ireland (GRONI), Registrar of Deaths may have information regarding the unidentified remains in cemeteries. This does not sit within the remit of the Department of Justice.

You may therefore wish to direct your request to GRONI who may hold that information

Contact details are as follows:

General Register Office for Northern Ireland

NISRA

Colby House

Stranmillis Court

Belfast

BT9 5RR

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