

30/04/2025

REFERENCE: FOI25\40

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 01 April 2025 and detailed below.

This is a request for Copies of records held by the Department relating to the August anti-immigration disorder and its aftermath.

Please provide the following records, covering 29 July 2024 to 31 August 2024:

1. All internal Department correspondence, memos, and meeting minutes, relating to the disorder and its aftermath;
2. All external correspondence relating to the disorder and its aftermath (i.e. with MLAs, Ministers, etc)

The DOJ has 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, this is due to the volume of relevant files and records held falling within the specification you described. 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 determine whether the Department holds the information, and then retrieve and extract that information.

To date, 363 files have been identified as *potentially* containing relevant information. It is estimated that to search through each file manually for relevant information will take 1 member of staff approximately 6 minutes, giving a total of 36 hours work. At a cost of £25 per hour, this equates to £900 which is higher than the appropriate limit. Consequently, the department is not obliged to comply with your request under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000.

You may, therefore wish to consider refining the scope of your request. One way of doing so might be to specify a more defined date range which may enable us to conduct a more targeted file search. In addition, or alternatively, you may wish to specify in more detail the subject matter of your request.

I should make clear that the Freedom of Information Act does contain a number of exemptions which we will consider in respect of any information we might find, and so a further refinement of your request does not guarantee any / all information being provided.

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.

If you wish to discuss this please contact the Freedom of Information Team using the contact details provided at the top of the first page. Please remember to quote your reference in any correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Records & Information Manager