

Records and Information  
Management Team



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Sent to:

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 15:380

Date: January 2016

### **FOI Case No. 15:380 Beyond the pillars**

Thank you for your letter of 06 December 2015 which was treated as a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

#### **You request and our response:**

#### ***The current position in implementing the Anne Owers' report pertaining to the recommendation on using scanners to replace searches.***

*NIPS have, as required by the legislation governing the use of ionising radiation for non-medical purposes, submitted a justification application.*

*NOMS (National Offender Management Service) are currently going through the justification process in regards to the use of ionising radiation. They are submitting a report to the Department of energy and climate change to ask for permission to use transmission x-ray scanners. There will be no further progress until this process is completed.*

*As NOMS application is for a similar purpose, it is sensible that both should be considered together.*

#### ***The current cost of research, procurement and testing of scanners in prisons.***

*Inherent within Recommendation 8 of the Owers' review is the requirement that NIPS reviews its position on searching in response to the development of new technologies.*

*There is no cost to the Northern Ireland Prison Service as the process is currently being researched by NOMS.*

***If any senior officers at the NI Prison Service have been paid either contractual or non-contractual bonuses or performance payments since 2011.***

*Between 2011 and 2014, all Governor Grades were subject to either progression on their pay scale, or a non-consolidated bonus of between 0.5% and 2% of salary based on a satisfactory or better performance marking in their annual report as part of their contract. This arrangement ended under the terms of the 2014 Prison Grade Pay Award.*

*Since 2011 and in accordance with Northern Ireland Civil Service pay policy, the pay award terms for Senior Civil Servants and General Service staff allowed for those on the maximum of their pay scale to be paid a non-consolidated payment of 1% based on a satisfactory performance.*

*Also in accordance with Northern Ireland Civil Service pay policy there is a Special Bonus Scheme that operates for General Service staff up to and including Grade 6, to reward those who have made an outstanding contribution to a particular task or area of work. During the period from 2011, two payments have been made to senior management, totalling £350.*

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If you wish to discuss this please contact the Records and Information Management 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 Management Team***