



Department of
Justice
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Máinnstríe O tha Laa
www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Department of Justice
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11th May 2021

REFERENCE: FOI\21\15

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 12th April 2021 and detailed below.

Please provide all copies of correspondence which issued from (1) The Private Office of the Minister (2) the Permanent Secretary & (3) officials, in respect of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in the period, December 2019 - to date.

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 the information that you are looking for, and you have the right to have the information given to you. These rights may only be overridden if the information you are looking for is covered by an exemption in the Act.

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. 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 determining whether the Department holds the information, and then retrieve and extract that information.

In your request you have asked for correspondence '*in respect of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in the period, December 2019 - to date.*' During the requested time period, a total of 490,382 files have been identified as potentially containing relevant information. It is estimated that to search through each file for relevant information will take 1 member of staff well in excess of 24 working hours and so the overall cost would



be 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

Yours sincerely



Records & Information Manager

