



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

Department of Justice
Records & Information Team
Information Services Division
Block 5
Knockview Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SL

Telephone 028 90378617
Email: foi@justice-ni.gov.uk

2nd November 2022

REFERENCE: FOI\22\51

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your two requests for information dated 5th October 2022 and detailed below.

Request 1:

Please could you advise on the following questions for the period 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022:

- *What was the total allocated recruitment budget for this period?*
- *What were the total recruitment advertising costs with all job boards and external agencies for this period (not including temporary agency staff)?*
- *What were the total costs for all of your temporary agency staff for the above period?*
- *Who were these suppliers?*
- *What was the total cost per supplier?*

Request 2:

Please could you advise on the following questions for the period 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023:

- *What is the total recruitment budget for this period?*
- *Who is the senior responsible officer/board member(s) responsible for dispensing this budget?*
- *What is the organisational structure within your recruitment and HR teams at the Department of Justice?*

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 accordance with these obligations, I can advise as follows.

The personnel function for the core Department of Justice was transferred to Department of Finance in April 2017, becoming part of a centralised human resource function known as NICS HR. For this reason, the Department of Finance may hold information in scope of your request on behalf of the Department of Justice. The Department of Finance has indicated that they are also in receipt of your request and will be providing a response directly to you.

In addition to any information held by the Department of Finance, the Department of Justice also directly recruits staff to the State Pathologist's Department. For the requested time period, I can advise that the recruitment budget was £238k and associated advertising costs were £2,350. This is in addition to any figures provided by the Department of Finance.

The Director of Safer Communities is responsible for dispensing the budget allocated to the State Pathologist's Department. Day to day operational management of the SPD budget is delegated to the head of State Pathology Support Branch. HR functions for the State Pathologist's Department are delivered by State Pathology Support Branch within the Safer Communities Directorate.

I can also advise that the Department of Justice holds the following information.

1) What were the total costs for all of your temporary agency staff for the above period?

The total costs for all temporary agency staff within the core Department of Justice for the above period were - £473,620.21. The Department does not provide details of individual suppliers for security reasons.

2) Who were these suppliers?

This information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with s38(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Please see section below.

3) What was the total cost per supplier:



Temporary Agency Suppliers	2021-22 £
Supplier 1	129,967.40
Supplier 2	189,104.48
Supplier 3	144,458.97
Supplier 4	4,943.80
Total	468,474.65

Section 38 (Health and safety)

As explained above, names of suppliers to the Department of Justice are exempt from disclosure under Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 38 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 and locations of suppliers falls within the criteria described above for s38 outweighs the public interest in release.



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

