



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

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Records & Information Team**
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05 July 2023

REFERENCE: FOI\23\42

Dear Madam

Thank you for your request for information dated 14 June 2023 and detailed below.

Recently the Minister for Immigration, Robert Jenrick responded to a [Parliamentary Written Question from Claire Hanna MP](#):

“I have corresponded with the Permanent Secretaries of the Northern Ireland Department of Justice and The Executive Office on a number of occasions since the introduction of the Illegal Migration Bill. Home Office officials have also engaged regularly with their counterparts in the Department and Justice and The Executive Office about the Bill, including one meeting with officials in The Executive Office. We will continue to engage, as appropriate, with relevant Northern Ireland departments on the implementation of the Bill in Northern Ireland.”

Please provide any relevant correspondence / reports / agendas / minutes / any other documentation related to the communication and meetings referenced in the above parliamentary statement by the Minister.

I would be grateful if you would supply this information by email.

In order to comply with all cost and time exemptions please provide me with as much of the data requested as possible. If I can help to clarify this request please contact me by email at chloe@pprproject.org. I look forward to hearing from you promptly, as required by the legislation, and in any case within 20 working days.

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 in scope of your request, and you have the right to have that recorded



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.

Please be advised that we have searched our records and I can confirm that the Department of Justice (DoJ) does hold information relating to your request and would advise of the following:

On the 24 March 23, 28 April 23, 24 May 23 and 30 June 23 virtual meetings took place between the Home Office and officials from DoJ to discuss clauses of the Bill. There were no agendas provided prior to the meetings taking place and no contemporaneous notes were recorded during these meetings.

On the 22 March 2023 an official from the Department of Justice emailed the Bill Manager in the Home Office points of contact in the Executive Office (TEO) for future correspondence on the Bill. Personal information has been redacted from this email as its disclosure would not be lawful, fair and transparent (section 40 FOIA). A copy of this redacted email is attached at **Annex A**.

The remainder of the information that the Department of Justice holds on record is covered by the following sections of the FOIA:

- Section 28(1) – Relations within the UK;

Qualified Exemptions

The exemption provisions of sections 28(1) confer a qualified exemption to our duty under section 1(1) (b) of the Act – to release the information requested. Information covered by qualified exemptions can only be withheld where the public interest falls in favour of applying the exemptions.

We have provided details of our Public Interest Test considerations in **Annex B** to this letter. The DoJ has decided that, on balance, the public interest in withholding the information relating to your request, which we hold, outweighs those considerations favouring the release of that information.

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

Freedom of Information Manager

