



Department of  
**Justice**  
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Máinnystrie O tha Laa  
[www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk)

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16 August 2023

**REFERENCE: FOI\23\60**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 03 August 2023 and detailed below.

Since 1 January 2018, on how many occasions has the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland obtained the 'communications data' (e.g. Call Data Records, or CDRs) of individuals from mobile telecoms providers, either directly or indirectly through another agency (e.g. Met Police, Home Office, etc.)? Please break this down into:

- a) number of separate occasions these were requested
- b) number of individual phone numbers for which CDRs were requested
- c) the legal basis for the requests (please specify the number of requests per legal basis. For example, "total requests: 3, Investigatory Powers Act – 2, Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 -- 1")
- d) the particular legislation used e.g. PACE, RIPA, IP Act (number of instances as a percentage of the total)
- e) what percentage of requests for that data that were rejected, and the reasons for the rejection.

For guidance, CDRs are part of 'communications data' from a telecoms company.

Please see this document, particularly page

13: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/426248/Acquisition\\_and\\_Disclosure\\_of\\_Communications\\_Data\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_March\\_2015.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/426248/Acquisition_and_Disclosure_of_Communications_Data_Code_of_Practice_March_2015.pdf)

2. Since 1 January 2018, has the Department of Justice for Northern Ireland purchased or otherwise received (including free of charge) any anonymised mobile phone communications data sets (otherwise known as anonymised CDRs), be they of



individuals or aggregate data. (For your information, an example of commercial 'big data' for mobile phones can be found here: <https://thenextweb.com/uk/2012/10/09/telefonica-launches-big-data-analysis-service-for-business-and-local-authorities/>)

- a) If yes, please state on how many occasions and when
- b) From which telecoms providers the communications data originated
- c) If purchased via a third-party, please specify which company
- d) The intended use of that data
- e) The total amount spent, if anything
- f) If not purchased but nonetheless shared, please state the name of the body that provided the data

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 relation to the information you have requested, please be advised that the Department does not hold any recorded information in scope of your request.

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](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Records & Information Manager**

