



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

Department of Justice
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22 September 2023

REFERENCE: FOI\23\64

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your request of 24 August 2023 under the Freedom of Information Act as follows.

- *All regulations unable to be passed within the Department due to the lack of a Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive*
- *All consultations unable to be progressed within the Department due to the lack of a Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive*
- *All strategies unable to be passed within the Department due to the lack of a Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive*

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.

The responses to your request are as follows:

- ***All regulations unable to be passed within the Department due to the lack of a Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive***
 - Regulations under the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Act 2022 that require an affirmative resolution of the Assembly. These relate to the reappointment of Lay Magistrates.



- Regulations that specify which Public Service Bodies within the Department's functions that will be legally required to establish and maintain arrangements to ensure that period products are obtainable, free of charge, on their premises.
- ***All consultations unable to be progressed within the Department due to the lack of a Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive***
 - Section 29 of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 requires the Department to lay a report to the NI Assembly setting out the Department's proposals for— (a) making regulations under the Access to Justice (NI) Order 2003 for the prescribed purpose, or (b) taking some different course of action for the prescribed purpose. The Department is awaiting Ministerial approval on draft proposals before proceeding to public consultation and publication of the report to the Assembly.
- ***All strategies unable to be passed within the Department due to the lack of a Northern Ireland Assembly/Executive***
 - In response to the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022, a draft Outline DOJ Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan was agreed by the DoJ Departmental Management Board in June 2023. Pending Ministerial approval, the Outline Strategy has been developed to support the Department's commitment to climate change and recognise the work in support of DAERA and other NICS Departments to deliver the first NI Climate Action Plan.

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

