

Equality, Rights and Identity Division

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U. Winfield
request-725489-
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Our Ref: FOI 2021 - 0008

Date: 8 March 2021

Dear U Winfield

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I refer to your request which we received on 9 February 2021 for information relating to the Department's dealings with Stonewall. I am writing to confirm that TEO has now completed its consideration of your request and wish to advise you that some of this information cannot be disclosed.

A copy of the information which can be disclosed is enclosed with this letter.

With regard to request 1 we have attached two documents and in relation to your requests 2-5 we have no information to provide.

In respect of request 6, the NICS has not yet reached a decision on continuing membership with any Stonewall scheme.

Some of the information you have requested has been redacted because it is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. In this case I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and TEO is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

If you are unhappy with the level of service you have received in relation to our handling of this request, you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. You should contact –

Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division
Room SD 24
Stormont Castle
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3ST

Email - foi@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

In order to assist a thorough review, it would be helpful if you set out any particular grounds for complaint.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you then have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
WILMSLOW
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless the internal review procedure outlined above has been completed.

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<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/copy/c-other.htm>

Please contact me if you have any queries about this letter, remembering to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Alison Miskimmin

Annex

Request

Dear Executive Office (Northern Ireland),

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Please provide any information that you hold answering to any of the following descriptions:

1. Any application you made in 2019 or 2020 to be a “Stonewall Diversity Champion” or to be included on Stonewall’s “Workplace Equality Index,” including any attachments or appendices to those applications. Please redact personal details if necessary.
2. Any feedback you received in 2019 or 2020 from Stonewall in relation to either application or programme.

3. Any other communication you have received from Stonewall in 2019 or 2020 unless privileged or otherwise exempt from disclosure (but if you claim privilege or exemption in relation to any material, please say in broad terms what the material is and the basis on which you claim to be entitled to withhold it).

4. Full details of any equality impact assessment you carried out connected with any of these applications (including any equality impact assessment carried out prior to an earlier application of the same kind, if no further assessment was done).

5. Details of the total amount of money you paid to Stonewall (i) in 2019; (ii) in 2020, whether or not as payment for goods or services.

6. Whether you intend to continue your membership of any Stonewall scheme in the future, and if so which.

Yours faithfully,

U. Winfield