



Department for the  
**Economy**  
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4 October 2018  
Our ref: DfE 2018-0179

Mr Hugh McCloy

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

[request-508262-14094646@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-508262-14094646@whatdotheyknow.com)

**RE: Freedom of Information Act 2000 / Environmental Information  
Regulations 2004**

Thank you for your request for information which was received by the Department on 7 September 2018 by email. Referencing:

*"Dear Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland),*

*I am requesting information as per the following:*

*1: list all newspapers that carried public information notices/adverts on mineral prospecting licenses in regards to KOZA/16 mineral prospecting license.*

*2: a copy of all receipts, invoices or purchase orders in regards to the adverts."*

The Department has completed its search and I can confirm that we hold information requested in respect of this request.

In response to your first query above, the advertisement of the intention to award the KOZA licence was placed in the following local newspapers by the Department: Tyrone Constitution, Fermanagh Herald, Ulster Herald, Impartial Reporter & Belfast Gazette. I have attached a copy of the mineral prospecting licence advertisement.

In response to your second query, I have attached copies of invoices including Purchase Order numbers held by the Department. However, some details of a commercially sensitive nature (bank details) have been redacted under the exception

EIR 12 (5) (E) which deals with commercial sensitivity. This exception is subject to a public interest test and the rationale for withholding this information is set out below.

## **EIR 12 (5) (E) – Confidentiality of commercial or industrial information**

### **Arguments in favour of disclosure**

The Department wishes to be as open and transparent as possible.

The Department recognises the importance of transparency in areas of public concern.

### **Arguments in favour of maintaining the exception**

The bank details of the companies concerned are commercially sensitive and were supplied to us in an expectation of confidentiality.

Were the exempted information to be released, companies would be likely to withhold commercially sensitive information in the future and consequently undermine our ability to fulfil our regulatory role.

I am content that the arguments in favour of maintain the exception outweigh those in favour of disclosure and that the public interest lies in withholding these details.

I have enclosed an Access to Information Factsheet which provides information on EIR procedures, including what to do if you are not happy with our response, and some useful contact points.

For information on how we process your personal data please see our Privacy Notice:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/economy/Privacy-Notice-FOI-EIR-SAR.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

**Sam McAllister**  
**GSNI/Minerals**