



Health and Social
Care Board

Health and Social Care Board
Gransha Park House
15 Gransha Park
Clooney road
L'Derry
BT476FN

Jimmy Hamill

Via (e)mail request-600590-666b1acd@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 23rd December 2019

Our Ref No: FOI 1064 19

Dear Mr Hamill,

Reference – Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information. Your request was received by email on 4th December 2019. Your request has been processed under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I have now had an opportunity to consider your request and I have set out my response below and in the attached appendices.

Request.

Your request read, *'Thank you for your reply to my request.'*

You will be aware that the response was significantly beyond the expected date for fulfillment of the FOI request.

Can I ask that you provide me with reasons for the delay along with any associated email and other communications related to this request?'

In response.

There was an initial delay between the submission of your request to the HSCB on 30th August 2019, and your request being passed to the HSCB Information Governance Team with initial action commencing on the morning of 6th September 2019 (see email at bullet point 2 and email at bullet point 3 of appendix 1 attached.)

On Friday 6th September 2019, FOI 1045 19 was first shared with HSCB Finance Directorate by Mr Peter Moran, HSCB Information Governance team.

This FOI was then passed to the Finance team within the Directorate responsible for the Voluntaries and Community budget in HSCB. Initial Finance team discussions took place week commencing 9th September 2019 with a view to incorporating this request into existing workplans as the Finance team works to a number of deadlines, including monthly management accounts deadlines, with HSCB 'Day 8' reporting deadlines (Wednesday 11th September 2019) being a specific team priority and taking into consideration planned leave commitments. It was necessary to assign a dedicated officer to data gathering and collation, requiring them to manage both this request and their regular duties interacting regularly with officers within, and external to the Finance Team, overseen by their manager. This FOI therefore involved a significant staff resource in its completion

In respect of the response, whilst there was raw data available to extract as an initial working source of information, this required extensive analysis and quality assurance - including cross-referencing with other Directorate information sources. Additional consideration of any other supplementary areas that may be relevant to the scope of the request also took some time requiring significant liaison and feedback from other Directorates external to the Finance Team.

There was continuous communication between Finance and HSCB Information Governance team, providing regular updates, and agreement on actions sought. Following the submission of finance information on 11 October 2019 to Information Governance, additional information and clarifications were also given in response to Information Governance queries on the information provided, and incorporated into the final response where relevant.

It is worth noting that those staff who assigned time to develop this response included an officer at Assistant Director level, and the resources allocated clearly demonstrate the HSCB commitment to meet its obligations under Freedom of Information legislation in an environment where there are significant competing demands on limited and stretched resources.

I have set out a timeline of actions taken by the HSCB at appendix 1 attached, and would direct you to the information attached at appendix 2 through 65 for any associated emails or communications related to your request (FOI 1045 19).

Once again, please accept my apologies for the delays associated with this and the further two FOI requests that were processed in addition to FOI 1045 19.

I trust you find this response helpful, however, if you are unhappy with my response, please contact me and I will initiate an internal review into this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PM', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Peter Moran
Assistant Information Governance Manager
HSCB – Western Offices