



Northern  
Ireland  
Office

Northern Ireland Office  
Freedom of Information Team  
Stormont House  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3SH

[foi@nio.gov.uk](mailto:foi@nio.gov.uk)

[@NIOgov](http://www.gov.uk/nio)

Section 40

By email: Section 40

21 May 2021

Dear Section 40

**REFERENCE: FOI 21/74**

Thank you for your email dated 22 April 2021 in which you requested the following information from the Northern Ireland Office:

1. *What is the remit of the Constitution and Rights Policy Group ?*
2. *What were the Terms of Reference for its establishment ?*
3. *By what criteria were individuals selected to sit on this Group ?*
4. *Who are the members of the Group ?*
5. *How often does it meet ?*
6. *Where are its minutes published ?*

In regards to Question 1, I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office holds the information that you have asked for. The Constitution and Rights Policy Group is a team in the Northern Ireland Office. The Constitution and Rights Policy Group contributes to the Northern Ireland Office's priority outcomes of:

- Society – Supporting greater inclusion, tolerance, and openness in Northern Ireland
- Governance – Ensuring that governance in Northern Ireland is responsive, transparent, and able to deliver effective public services

In regards to Questions 2-6, we have interpreted your request to mean that the Constitution and Rights Policy Group is a committee that meets regularly. As the Constitution and Rights Policy Group is a team with permanent staff, it does not have a membership or selection criteria, terms of reference, members, a schedule of meetings, or minutes. The Northern Ireland Office therefore does not hold the information that you have asked for in Questions 2-6.

If you believe this reply is not in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter.

If you request a review you should do so in writing stating the reasons. If following an internal review you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask him to investigate whether the NIO 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.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

If you wish to discuss this please contact the Freedom of Information Team using the contact details provided at the top of the first page. Please remember to quote your reference in any correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

**Freedom of Information Team**