

Section 40
Section 40

28 July 2021

REFERENCE: FOI/21/116

Thank you for your email dated 28 June 2021 in which you requested the following information from The Northern Ireland Office:

Please provide complete answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees are at your organisation?
2. How many mobile phone and mobile broadband (data only) connections do you currently have?
3. What is the split between mobile phone and mobile broadband connections?
4. Who is your mobile phone network provider?
5. Did you switch providers on your last renewal?
6. Please provide a monthly breakdown of your total mobile phone contract costs for the past 12 months, and state whether VAT has been included in the numbers given.
7. Does your contract include a hardware, tech or transformation fund?
8. If the answer to question 7 is yes, what was the value of the fund upon the signing of the current contract?
9. How have you sourced the contract?
10. What is the contract term length?
11. How long do you have remaining on your current contract?
12. Who is the primary contact for this contract?

If you have any questions, or need me to clarify any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 07500 874748 or in response to this email.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In response to questions 1, 2, 3 the Northern Ireland Office currently has 165 employees, 413 connections in total, 358 mobile phone connections and 55 mobile broadband connections (these figures include MiFi devices, laptops and tablets/iPads for external members of staff/ALB's and 90 devices earmarked for upgrades).

In response to questions 4, 5 the current providers for the Northern Ireland Office are EE & Vodafone. No the Department did not switch providers during renewal.



In response to question 6 please see the table below which provides a monthly breakdown of costs. The figures provided exclude VAT and the last quarter, as billable invoices for this period have not yet been received.

April 2020	£1,192.63
May 2020	£1,296.12
June 2020	£1,391.77
July 2020	£4,938.99
August 2020	£4,795.98
September 2020	£2,938.94
October 2020	£5,320.18
November 2020	£5,056.73
December 2020	£1,564.38
January 2021	£5,093.13
February 2021	£5,100.41
March 2021	£5,625.92

In response to questions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 the Northern Ireland Office receives managed ICT services from IT Assist (ITA), which is a service provided by Enterprise Shared Services, a body within the Department of Finance, Northern Ireland. The information requested is, therefore, not held by this Department. This information may be available from the Department of Finance, Northern Ireland who can be contacted at foi@finance-ni.gov.uk.

In response to question 12 the information you are requesting, namely contact details specific to an individual, is exempt by way of section 40(2) of Freedom of Information Act since disclosure of this information would breach the Data Protection legislation.

For further information on Section 40 (personal data) exemption under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act please visit the independent regulators, the Information Commissioners Office website; [section 40 guidance](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of information Team

Corporate Operations Group

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Complaints

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 to the following:

Northern Ireland Office
Freedom of Information Team
Stormont House
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SH
FOI@NIO.gov.uk

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

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.

