



Northern  
Ireland  
Office

Northern Ireland Office  
Freedom of Information Team  
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23 November 2021

Jenna Corderoy  
request-799186-025d551d@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Jenna Corderoy,

REFERENCE: FOI 21/200

Thank you for your request received by the Northern Ireland Office on the 27th October 2021. For reference, your original request was as follows:

*For Q2 2021, please:*

*(a) State how many FOI requests were sent to special advisers for clearance/approval/that they wished to have sight of.*

*(b) For those FOI requests, please provide their reference numbers.*

*(c) Please provide copies of the FOI requests that were sent to special advisers for clearance/approval/that they wished to have sight of.*

Your request was considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

I can confirm that information within scope of your original request is held by the Department. We have provided 20 FOI requests, one with an attachment\* (21/91) to the accompanying email. FOI references below:

21/55	21/56	21/56	21/62	21/69	21/73	21/74	21/75	21/76	21/77
21/79	21/89	21/90	21/91*	21/94	21/102	21/114	21/116	21/117	21/120

Some of the information is exempt by way of Section 40 (personal data) of the Freedom of Information Act. As such, personal information such as names, email addresses of members of the public and a non-public NIO phone number, has been redacted. In addition, for the table in FOI 21/57 we have redacted the numbers that are fewer than 5 as staff could be identified with this information.

The Department, therefore, considers that information exempt under the Freedom of Information Act by way of Section 40(2) (personal data). These person(s) could not reasonably expect that their personal information would be disclosed; therefore, in doing so would breach current 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 Commissioner's Office, website:

Section 40

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/2614720/personal-information-section-40-and-regulation-13-version-21.pdf>

I trust this information is at least of some use and I wish you all the best with your research.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of information Team**

Corporate Operations Group

1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

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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](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.