

**Chief Executive**  
2 Franklin Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8DQ

Tel: 028 9536 3863  
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**BY EMAIL**

████████████████████

**Our Ref: FOI 2083**

Dear ██████████

Your request for information was received on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested in relation to staff who have been given permission to work remotely outside of the UK:

- 1. Since 1st January 2022 how many staff have been given permission to work remotely outside of the UK?**
- 2. Please provide a list of each unique approval detailing; country, job title of the individual concerned and length of time spent working outside of the UK.**
- 3. Are there any additional associated costs created by staff working outside of the UK. Please provide a breakdown of these costs and the total spent since 1st January 2022.**

I can advise that since 1st January 2022, the BSO have had no instances of staff who have been given permission to work remotely outside of the UK.

The BSO Hybrid Working Pilot Scheme requires staff to work 60% of their working week in their contractual place of work. Within the pilot scheme it is clearly stated that the days which staff can avail of home working will vary from week to week dependent on the service needs and will be at the discretion of line management. Staff are required to comply with this.



I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the BSO, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,  
2 Franklin Street,  
Belfast,  
BT2 8DQ

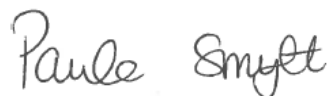
If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

**Website:** [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 0303 123 1113  
**Email:** [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)  
**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office  
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,



**for Karen Bailey**  
Chief Executive