

11th June 2024

BY EMAIL

Our Ref: FOI 2199

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request for information was received on 14th May 2024 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 legal processes.

Please find a response as follows / attached.

1) Please confirm the exact number of ... BSO staff ... who have been/are actively engaged in the hostile pursuit of [REDACTED]

The BSO do not consider that they have been engaged in a “hostile pursuit”. As such, no information is held in relation to your request.

2) Please confirm the exact number of ... BSO Directorate of Legal Services (DLS) staff ... who have been/are actively engaged in the hostile pursuit of [REDACTED]

The BSO do not consider that they have been engaged in a “hostile pursuit”. As such, no information is held in relation to your request.

3) Is the DLS subject to scrutiny from the Northern Ireland Audit Office

In line with Managing Public Money Northern Ireland, the NIAO is the independent auditor of the BSO and have a statutory obligation to form their audit opinion through a risk-based approach on review of organisational information and records. It is therefore confirmed that BSO, and consequently DLS which forms part of the functions of BSO, is subject to scrutiny from the NIAO and further information can be found within the BSO published Annual Report and Accounts.



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
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: 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,



Karen Bailey
Chief Executive

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