

4th August 2020**BY EMAIL**
**Our Ref: FOI 1261**Dear 

Your request for information was received on 19th June 2020 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 with regards to PPE equipment supplied to Northern Irish NHS hospitals and care workers.

- 1) Does the Business Services Organisation have a central database regarding the obtaining and distribution of PPE to Northern Irish NHS Hospitals and Northern Irish NHS and private Care Homes?**

Yes – for Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSCNI) Organisations. However, please note that BSO is not responsible for direct supply/distribution to private care homes.

- 2) If not, how does the Business Services Organisation keep track regarding the obtaining and distribution of PPE to Northern Irish NHS Hospitals and Northern Irish NHS and private Care Homes?**

Please refer to question 1, above.

- 3) If not, is the control of PPE to Northern Irish NHS Hospitals and Northern Irish NHS and private Care Homes left to each individual Northern Irish NHS Trust or Northern Irish NHS Area?**

Yes

- 4) How much PPE has so far been supplied to Northern Irish NHS Hospitals and Northern Irish NHS and private Care Homes and what has been the total cost so far?**

For the period 2 March 2020 – 30 June 2020 BSO issued 121,235,814 items of PPE at a cost of £25,730,474.33 to HSCNI organisations.

- 5) What individual items of PPE have so far been supplied to Northern Irish NHS Hospitals and Northern Irish NHS and private Care Homes?**

PPE items that have so far been supplied to HSCNI Organisations by BSO are Aprons, FFP3 respirators, Gloves, Gowns, Type IIR face masks and Eye Protection.

- 6) How much of PPE has been supplied from domestic manufacturers in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK and how much from abroad and from which countries?**

BSO does not record the country of manufacture of PPE supplied.

- 7) How are items of PPE distributed to Northern Irish NHS Hospitals and Northern Irish NHS and private Care Homes and what has been the total cost so far?**

PPE has been distributed to HSCNI organisations through BSO's own managed fleet alongside non-PPE products. It is therefore not possible to attribute a cost to distribution of PPE specifically.

- 8) How much more PPE does the Business Services Organisation propose to be supplied to Northern Irish NHS Hospitals and Northern Irish NHS and private Care Homes?**

Supply of products will be determined by need. BSO does not hold information regarding what it proposes to supply.

- 9) How much more individual items of PPE are proposed to be supplied to Northern Irish NHS Hospitals and Northern Irish NHS and private Care Homes?**

Question withdrawn following clarification.

- 10) What records does the Business Services Organisation have regarding how much PPE and individual items of PPE have so far been received from Northern Irish and UK domestic manufacturers and manufacturers from abroad and supplied and distributed to Northern Irish NHS Hospitals and Northern Irish NHS and private Care Homes?**

BSO does not record the country of manufacture. Please see the response to question 6.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Bailey".

Karen Bailey
Acting Chief Executive