

Chief Executive

2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Tel: 028 9536 3863

Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

12th December 2024

BY POST



Our Ref: FOI 2330

Dear 

Your request for information was received on 6th November 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 relating to the People's Awards 2024:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I am requesting information on how much the Business Services Organisation spent in total on "the People Awards 2024" held in the Crumlin Road Gaol.

Firstly, please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in this matter.

Please find the requested information below:

The BSO spent £13,221.42 on the People Awards 2024, held in Crumlin Road Gaol on Thursday 10 October. This total includes:

- Venue hire
- Food and drinks
- Live band/performers
- Emcee/host
- Equipment hire

With regards to the other points of detail requested in the total, transport of people and/or equipment – I should advise that this was left to local management and individuals to arrange. Staff working at the event were supplied by the venue and other suppliers. No BSO staff were paid for working at the event.



With regards to the estimated number of work-hours that would have been spent on the project, I should advise you that as this event is directly related to the implementation of the BSO Human Relations Strategy, any time spent on it would be deemed to be 'business as usual' and as such it would not be possible to differentiate in terms of the breakdown you have requested.

However, I should advise that the judging panels were volunteers drawn from Non-Executive Directors, Trade Unions and Customer Organisations who were not specifically remunerated for this activity and were delighted to be involved in recognising the achievements of staff.

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:

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland
10th Floor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Telephone: 0303 123 1114
Email: ni@ico.org.uk

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

Karen Bailey
Chief Executive