



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Please note the text of this request has been reproduced exactly as received.

FOI Reference number: FOI 34/2024

Date: 25 April 2024

Request:

Under Freedom of Information legislation please clarify the position for all agencies and authorities under departmental remit/funding in terms of retaining external companies to carry out work including consultants, research, law firms (excluding counsel), scoping and auditing?

Please clarify if such are required to go through tendering and procurement procedures and if there are any exceptions to this.

Also please provide a copy of any departmental or governance policy and/or approved position in this regard.

Answer:

The NI Policing Board (NIPB) procures all goods and services in accordance with the [NI Public Procurement Policy](#) adopted by the Northern Ireland Executive in May 2002 (reissued August 2014). In accordance with the section 21 exemption (Information already reasonably accessible) this policy is readily available on the Department of Finance website via the website link above and has not been provided.

When seeking to appoint external consultants the NIPB adheres to additional 'Guidance on the use of professional services' within [FD \(DoF\) 07/12](#). In accordance with the section 21 exemption (Information already reasonably accessible) this policy is readily available on the Department of Finance website via the website link above and has not been provided.

The only procurement exception is that of external audit which is undertaken by the Comptroller and Auditor General who is appointed under statute. The Governance document which underpins this the [NIPB Management Statement and Financial Memorandum](#). In accordance with the section 21 exemption (Information already reasonably accessible) this policy is readily available on the NIPB website via the website link above and has not been provided.

If you have queries about this request or the decision, please contact the Board quoting the reference number above. If you are unhappy with the service you have received and wish to make a complaint or request a review you should contact the Board's Chief Executive -

Via Email: foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk

Or in writing at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House
Block D
2 – 4 Cromac Avenue
The Gasworks
Belfast
BT7 2JA

You should contact the Board within 40 working days of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot investigate or make a decision on a case unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Board. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at the following web link –

www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

or in writing at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone: - 0303 1231114

Email: - ni@ico.org.uk

Please be advised that Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.nipolicingboard.org.uk.

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.