

FOI DOF/2025-0450

Request

I am requesting information regarding any connections between the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and the Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association (IMFOA), Disney (including its UK subsidiary, disney.co.uk), and/or HM Treasury. This request is prompted by the observation that the website imfoa.com automatically redirects to disney.com and disney.co.uk, raising questions about potential financial or organisational links.

Specifically, I am seeking the following information for the period from 1st January 2015, to the present:

1. Correspondence: Any correspondence (e.g. emails, letters, or meeting notes) between the Department of Finance (including ministers, officials, or divisions) and representatives of IMFOA, Disney, Morgan Stanley (where James Gorman, Chairman of Disney and Chairman Emeritus of Morgan Stanley, is mentioned), or HM Treasury.
2. Financial Agreements or Transactions: Details of any financial agreements, contracts, grants, or transactions involving the Department of Finance and IMFOA, Disney, Morgan Stanley, or HM Treasury.
3. Meetings or Discussions: Records of any meetings, discussions, or briefings held by the Department of Finance (including committees, working groups, or divisions) that reference IMFOA, Disney, HM Treasury, or the redirection of the imfoa.com website to disney.com or disney.co.uk.
4. Investigations or Inquiries: Any records of investigations, inquiries, or discussions within the Department of Finance regarding potential financial misconduct, website redirection issues, or suspicious online activity related to IMFOA, Disney, or HM Treasury.
5. Policies or Guidance: Any internal policies, memos, or guidance documents within the Department of Finance that reference financial organisations in Iowa (such as IMFOA), global entertainment companies (such as Disney), or UK financial authorities like HM Treasury in the context of financial transparency, cybersecurity, or online redirects.

For context, my request is motivated by the unusual redirection of imfoa.com to disney.com and disney.co.uk, which may suggest a deliberate act by IMFOA or Disney, potentially to draw attention to a broader issue. Given James Gorman's roles at Disney and Morgan Stanley, and HM Treasury's role in overseeing UK financial policy, I am seeking to understand whether the Department of Finance has any recorded information that could clarify these connections, particularly in relation to UK-wide financial oversight or cross-border collaboration.

Clarification received on 12/08/2025:

I am requesting all information held by the Department of Finance involving IMFOA, Disney, Morgan Stanley (specifically where James Gorman, Chairman of Disney and Chairman Emeritus of Morgan Stanley, is referenced), and HM Treasury. This includes:

- Each entity individually (DoF with IMFOA alone, DoF with Disney alone, DoF with Morgan Stanley alone, DoF with HM Treasury alone).
- Any combination of these entities (e.g. DoF with IMFOA and Disney, DoF with Disney and HM Treasury, DoF with Morgan Stanley and IMFOA, DoF with all four, or any other grouping).

For the period from 1 January 2015 to the present, I require:

1. Correspondence: All communications (emails, letters, meeting notes, etc.) between DoF and IMFOA, Disney, Morgan Stanley (with Gorman mentioned), or HM Treasury, whether involving one, two, three, or all four entities.

2. Financial Agreements or Transactions: Details of any contracts, grants, transactions, or financial arrangements between DoF and any of these entities, individually or in any combination.
3. Meetings or Discussions: Records of all meetings, discussions, or briefings by DoF (including committees or divisions) referencing IMFOA, Disney, HM Treasury, or the imfoa.com redirect to disney.com/disney.co.uk, whether involving one or multiple entities.
4. Investigations or Inquiries: Any records of investigations, inquiries, or discussions within DoF regarding financial misconduct, website redirection, or suspicious online activity related to any or all of these entities.
5. Policies or Guidance: All internal DoF policies, memos, or guidance documents referencing lowa financial organizations (e.g., IMFOA), global entertainment companies (e.g., Disney), or UK financial authorities (e.g., HM Treasury), individually or together, in the context of financial transparency, cybersecurity, or online redirects.

2nd Clarification received on 13/08/2025:

I am requesting all information held by the Department of Finance (DoF) involving IMFOA, Disney, Morgan Stanley (specifically where James Gorman is referenced), and HM Treasury, as outlined in my previous email. This includes:

- Information involving each entity individually (DoF with IMFOA alone, DoF with Disney alone, DoF with Morgan Stanley alone, DoF with HM Treasury alone).
- Information involving any combination of these entities (e.g. DoF with IMFOA and Disney, DoF with Disney and HM Treasury, DoF with Morgan Stanley and IMFOA, DoF with all four, or any other grouping).

To be explicit, for correspondence or interactions between DoF and HM Treasury, I require all communications that reference IMFOA, Disney, or Morgan Stanley (where James Gorman is mentioned), as well as any other records where these entities are discussed in any combination with HM Treasury. I am not limiting this to general correspondence unrelated to these entities, as my request clearly focuses on interactions involving IMFOA, Disney, Morgan Stanley, or their combinations. For absolute clarity, my request covers the five categories listed in my 12 August email:

1. Correspondence
2. Financial Agreements or Transactions
3. Meetings or Discussions
4. Investigations or Inquiries
5. Policies or Guidance

These apply to all entities individually and in any combination, from 1 January 2015 to the present, as previously stated.

DoF response

I can confirm the department does not hold the information requested.