

DOF/2025-0568

Request

I am seeking information regarding the Stormont Dog of the Year competition. Specifically, I request the following:

1. What is the total cost of holding this event? This should include all associated expenses, including any claims made by elected representatives, as well as travel costs to and from venues (including travel from their homes to Stormont or elsewhere).
2. Will elected representatives use official working hours to participate in this event? (if so how many hours roughly will they use of official “working time”?)
3. What public benefit is expected to result from this event, and in what way will the people of Northern Ireland benefit?
4. Will any aspect of this event be funded by taxpayers’ money, particularly given the current financial pressures and public hardship?

DoF response

The Dog of the Year competition at Stormont is hosted by the Dog’s Trust in conjunction with the Kennel Club. While the Department of Finance approved the request to hold the event on the Stormont Estate, it has no role in running the event.

1. There was no cost to the Department of Finance relating to holding this event. Information on the cost of running the event, including any associated expenses, including any claims made by elected representatives, is not held by the Department.
2. This information is not held by the Department.
3. This information is not held by the Department.
4. No aspect of this event was funded by the Department of Finance.