ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2025-0483

Request

1. How many properties in Northern Ireland are currently exempt from paying council tax or business rates because they are used as mosques or Islamic places of worship?
2. For each exempt property, please provide the address or, if this is not possible for privacy reasons, the postcode sector (e.g., BT0 1).
3. Please specify under which exemption category these properties are listed (e.g., place of worship, charity, etc.).

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds some of the information requested. It is not possible to provide a complete list of mosques or Islamic places of worship, as the data within the rating system here is not classified at the level of religious denomination.

1. How many properties in Northern Ireland are currently exempt from paying council tax or business rates because they are used as mosques or Islamic places of worship?

   There are 2 properties with a Non-Domestic Valuation List description that includes the words “Mosque and Islamic Centre”. This may not represent a full list of such properties for the reason stated.

2. For each exempt property, please provide the address or, if this is not possible for privacy reasons, the postcode sector (e.g., BT0 1).

   The addresses are:
   - 38, Wellington Park, Belfast, Antrim, BT9 6DN; and
   - 24 Greenwell Street, Newtownards, DOWN, BT23 7LN

3. Please specify under which exemption category these properties are listed (e.g., place of worship, charity, etc.).

   Exemption has been granted under Article 41(2) sub section (b) of the NI Rates Order 1977 (a church hall, chapel hall or similar building occupied by a religious body and used for purposes connected with that body or for the purposes of any charity).

Land & Property Services’ Property Data products contain all properties in the domestic and non-domestic valuation lists and are available under an annual licence from LPS.