ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2025-0716

Request

I write to seek some information, under section 16 of the FOIA 2000, around the education budget for NI. If this is not available for the 2026 financial year, I would happily accept figures from the 2025 financial year.
My query centres around:

- How much is allocated to the department of education in the block grant?
- How much of this money is allocated to none front-line services e.g. review panels, department of education officials, the Education Authority, CCMS etc. Essentially money that it not allocated to schools.

The reason for my request is that I am a teacher who is gravely concerned about the future of the profession and in fact the education system in NI.

DoF response

I wish to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 15 December 2025.

I can confirm the Department holds some of the information requested.

Information you have requested is held by the Department but is exempt under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption, and the Department is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

With reference to the first part of your query, full details on the allocation of the Northern Ireland block grant for the 2025–26 financial year are available in the 2025–26 Budget document, which can be accessed on the Department of Finance website at the following link:

2025-26 Budget Document | Department of Finance

This document sets out how the block grant is distributed across all departments, including the Department of Education. Specifically, Table 6 provides the 2025–26 Departmental Budget Outcome.

Adjustments to the 2025–26 Budget are made through in-year monitoring rounds. The most recent position, as of December 2025, is published on the Department of Finance website:

In-year monitoring publications 2025-26

Additionally, the Finance Minister has published proposals for the draft Budget 2026–2029/30, which includes planned departmental allocations for day-to-day expenditure over the next three years and capital investment for the next four years. Public consultation on these proposals is open until 3 March 2026 and can be accessed via the following link:

Draft Budget 2026-2029/30

Regarding the second part of your query, the Department of Finance does not hold detailed information on the specific plans or allocations within the Department of Education for 2025–26. This level of detail is the responsibility of the Department of Education. We recommend contacting them directly, as they are best placed to provide accurate and up-to-date information on their internal budget planning and allocations. They can be contacted at freedom.info@education-ni.gov.uk.

Annex B - Internal Reviews

An Internal Review request examines the response based on applied exemptions, search adequacy, or response timeliness.

It is not the following, which will be treated as specified:

- Questions asking for clarification on information provided: Will be treated as part of the original FOI request.
- Additional questions about the information in the response: Will be treated as a new FOI request.
- Questions about the subject not related to the original request: Will be treated as new FOI request.
- Questions regarding how a service operates or why a decision was made: Will be treated as normal business and responded to accordingly.
- Complaints or concerns raised in response to information provided: Will be treated in line with relevant complaints procedure.

To make an Internal Review request:

- **Clearly state**: That you want an internal review of a previous FOI response and provide the necessary details.
- **Follow the timeline:** Be sure to submit your request within 40 working days of receiving the original response. If the Department has not responded at all, you have 40 working days after the original 20-day response period has passed.
- **Wait for a response:** The review is typically completed within 20 working days but can take up to 40 working days in exceptional circumstances. The Department should inform you of any delays.

What the review includes

- A fresh decision based on a reconsideration of all relevant factors.
- An assessment of whether the request was handled correctly and if exemptions were applied appropriately.
- The review will be conducted by someone who was not involved in the original decision.

If you wish to request an internal review, please email foi@finance-ni.gov.uk or write to FOI/EIR Team, Department of Finance, 2nd Floor, Craigantlet Buildings, Stoney Road, Belfast, BT4 3SX.