ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2025-0268

Request

Freedom of Information Request: Rural Needs Impact Assessments and Budget Allocations

Rural Community Network (RCN) is a regional membership-based organisation supporting rural communities across Northern Ireland. RCN works with rural communities to address issues relating to poverty, inequality, community and good relations and strives to develop the capacity and skills of groups to articulate their voice at a policy influence level.

Since the implementation of the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, how many Rural Needs Impact Assessments (RNIAs) has the Department of Finance carried out in relation to the allocation of annual budgets?

If you have carried out a RNIA on an annual budget, I would also appreciate a summary or copy of the assessment, if available.

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

Since the implementation of the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, one Rural Needs Impact assessment has been carried out by the Department of Finance in relation to the allocation of annual budgets.

A Rural Needs Impact Assessment was carried out by the Department of Finance on Budget 2018-19 and provided to the Northern Ireland Office in advance of decisions on Budget 2018-19.

The outcome of the assessment as provided to the Northern Ireland Office is attached at **Annex B.**