**ANNEX A**

**FOI DOF/2026-0278**

## Request

Please provide, for each Northern Ireland Executive Department, the total expenditure on consultancy services for each financial year from 2020/21 to 2025/26 (or the most recent financial year available).
For each Department, please also provide:

1. The total consultancy expenditure per financial year.
2. The number of consultancy contracts awarded per financial year.
3. The ten highest-value consultancy contracts awarded since 2020, including:
    - supplier name;
    - contract value;
    - purpose of the contract;
    - contract start date and duration.
4. The total consultancy expenditure across all Northern Ireland Executive Departments combined for each financial year.

## DoF response

I confirm that the Department holds some of the information requested, however, some of the information has been withheld as it falls within an exemption. Further details are provided below.

### 1. Consultancy expenditure

I confirm that the total consultancy expenditure for the Department of Finance from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is held by the Department and is provided in the table below.

| Financial Year | External Consultancy (£000) |
|---|---|
| 2020-21 | 376 |
| 2021-22 | 1,548 |
| 2022-23 | 3,787 |
| 2023-24 | 1,772 |
| 2024-25 | 3,966 |

### 2. Consultancy contracts awarded by Financial Year

The information 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 already 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. All contracts awarded over the value of £50,000 are published on our website and can be filtered by date CPD contracts awarded from 1 April 2016 onwards | Department of Finance. The contracts are not categorised by category of spend.

**3. Highest value consultancy contracts**

The information 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 already 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. All contracts awarded over the value of £50,000 are published on our website and can be filtered by date of award and awarded value. CPD contracts awarded from 1 April 2016 onwards | Department of Finance. The contracts are not categorised by category of spend and do not specify duration.

**4. Consultancy expenditure across all NI Executive departments**

The information requested is not held by the Department. Each individual department is responsible for their own expenditure.