

Ref No.	DOF/2026-0228		
Information	Exemption Applied	Reasons for Disclosure	Reasons for Non-Disclosure
Information relating to the funding strategy, financial position, business model and funding sources of Belfast Commercial Funding and Oakland Holdings contained within meeting notes and briefings.	Section 43(2) – Prejudice to commercial interests	• To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority. • There is a general public interest in accountability, openness and transparency of Government. • Disclosure would promote public understanding of the Department’s engagement with stakeholders. • There is a public interest in understanding issues relating to access to finance and wider economic development.	• There is a public interest in ensuring that organisations can operate in a competitive environment without the release of commercially sensitive information which could prejudice their position. • The information includes details of funding strategy and loans received which are not in the public domain and have been developed at cost. Disclosure would be likely to provide an unfair commercial advantage to competitors or counterparties. • Release of this information would be likely to prejudice the organisation’s ability to negotiate effectively with funders, investors or partners, thereby causing financial harm. • There is a risk that organisations would be less willing to provide full and frank commercially sensitive information to the

			Department if it were liable to be disclosed, which would undermine effective engagement. • Disclosure could damage confidence in the Department's handling of sensitive information and may discourage participation in future engagements, thereby impacting the quality of information available to inform decision making. • The Department believes that the consequences of releasing the information are significant and the likelihood of prejudice is high.
After weighing up the competing public interest considerations, the Department considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the information. The information should therefore be withheld under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. DECISION MAKER: Wendy Lecky DATE: 08/06/26			