ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0416

Request/Response

I can confirm that the Department of Finance (DoF) holds the information requested.

We have provided a response under each of your questions for ease of reference.

1. Does your organization currently use a dedicated digital platform or software for managing board meetings, committee papers, and governance processes (e.g., a "Board Portal")?

   Yes, it is now called OneAdvanced previously known as Decision Time. Some teams will use in house multipurpose technology for meetings and papers although these platforms are not solely intended for Governance purposes and therefore outside of the scope of this request.

2. If yes, please provide the name of the Current Provider (e.g., Diligent, Board Intelligence, Microsoft 365/Custom solution).

   OneAdvanced previously known as Decision Time.

3. What was the Contract Start date for this software/service?

   1st April 2026.

4. What is the scheduled Contract End date (including any optional extension periods)?

   31st March 2029 with no extensions available

5. What is the total Contract Value over the full term of the agreement (inclusive of VAT)?

   This information is considered to be exempt from release under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Commercial Interests). The Act states that “Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it,)”. Section 43 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test (see Annex B).

6. How many User Licenses (No. of Users) are currently active or provided for under the current contract?

   Unlimited meetings, it is not based on a per user licencing model.

7. Which User Archetypes or departments are the primary users of this system (e.g., Board Members, Secretariat, Executive Leadership)?

Board Members, Secretariat, Senior Management; as well as staff within NICS Departments use this service.

8. What is the job title of the Governance Contact responsible for the management and oversight of this specific contract?

Network Infrastructure and Voice Service Manager

9. Please provide a departmental or role-based Governance Email address for inquiries related to this system.

itassist@nigov.net

10. Which primary funding or revenue metric is utilized by your organization for budgetary planning (e.g., annual capital budget allocation, net funding allocation, annual budget allocation, or annual operating allocation)

Departmental Running Costs (DRC)

11. What is the recorded total amount of that specific revenue/funding metric for the current financial year?

This information is considered to be exempt from release under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Commercial Interests). The Act states that “Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it,)”. Section 43 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test (see Annex B).

12. What is your organization's defined region of jurisdiction, and what is the location of your headquarters office?

Northern Ireland; Craigantlet Buildings, Stoney Road, Belfast BT4

Annex B

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST			
Request Ref.	DoF/2026-0416		
Request summary:	Dedicated digital platform or software utilised for managing board meetings, committee papers, and governance processes		
Information details:	Exemption applied	Disclosure	Non - Disclosure

<table>
<tr>
<td>Questions 5 & 11 of the request are being withheld.</td>
<td>Section 43(2) Commercial Interests</td>
<td>Disclosure of the information would:

• Show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority;

• Facilitate accountability and transparency in the spending of public money; and

• Promote competition in procurement through transparency.</td>
<td>This information relates to the cost of a single service recently obtained by the Public Sector and publicising this commercially sensitive financial data, would, or would be likely to, prejudice the service provider’s commercial interests and the Departments, by diminishing the competitive advantage going forward.

The disclosure of this information would or would be likely to weaken future tenders for the participants in a competitive environment by revealing sensitive market information or information of potential usefulness to future competitors in the future.

There is also a risk that tenderers could be discouraged from competing organisations for future competitions if the cost of this software/service is released;

There is a public interest in ensuring that private sector companies can compete on an equitable basis for public sector contracts and that the public sector can obtain the most secure and cost-effective contracts, the disclosure of these costs could compromise the ability to do so in the future.</td>
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<td colspan="4">PUBLIC INTEREST DECISION: The Department has considered all of the relevant factors in the public interest test and has reached the conclusion that the benefit to the public in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in releasing the information requested, because of the prejudices and losses that would potentially affect the Department and its third-party service provider.

Signed: Date: 14 August 2026</td>
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Annex C - 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.