

LAWFULNESS, FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY TEST

Application of FOI exemption Section 40(2) and EIR exception 12(3) 13(1)

DOF/2026-0428 ANNEX C

A Lawfulness, Fairness and Transparency Test must be carried out by the Department of Finance when considering disclosure of third-party personal data which falls within the scope of an FOI or EIR request.

FOI / EIR request

If you could provide the following information in relation to the Northern Ireland Civil Service and its individual departments for which you hold this information:

- 1.The total number of staff who are currently in receipt of Shift Distribution Allowance.
- 2.If possible, a breakdown of this figure by department and /or agency.
- 3.If available, a breakdown by staff grade.

Consideration of the personal data falling within the scope of the request

Guidance from the Information Commissioner's office states that personal data only includes information relating to natural persons who:

- can be identified or who are identifiable, directly from the information in question; or
- who can be indirectly identified from that information in combination with other information.

Description of personal data/issue(s) under consideration:

In some areas the number of cases on which the analysis is based is too small to publish due to risk of identifying individuals (e.g. fewer than five members of staff were recorded as claiming Shift Disturbance Allowance at certain grades).

Lawfulness

Do either of the two lawful basis below, which allow for the disclosure of personal data, apply? **No**

- ☐ **Consent:** This applies when the data subject(s) clear consent exists, allowing the department to disclose personal data falling within the scope of this request.

- **Legitimate interests:** This applies when disclosure is necessary for the department's legitimate interests or the legitimate interests of a third party that overrides the data subject(s) rights and freedoms, particularly their right to privacy.

Conclusion

Having considered all the information contained within the Lawfulness, Fairness and Transparency Test, the department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of third-party personal data falling within the scope of the request (of which the requester is not the data subject).