ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0429

Request/Response

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

A response has been provided under each of your questions for ease of reference.

1. How many consultants are working full time/part time on Integr8? Provide breakdown by company and area of expertise.

   The Integr8 Programme has appointed Ernst & Young (EY) as Business Transformation Partner. The number of consultants supporting the Programme varies depending on the phase of the Programme and the key deliverables and activities at the particular time. The table below outlines the main areas of expertise provided by EY:

Areas of Expertise
Business Transformation
Operating Model Design
Organisation and Service Design
Business Change
Programme Management, Governance & Assurance
Finance & HR Transformation
Transition and Business Readiness

   During July 2026, the Programme utilised 25 consultants with the number of planned days agreed in advance against a Statement of Work.

2. How many consultants from Techspire are currently contracted to work on Integrate?

   The Department does not hold a direct contract with Techspire. The Department does avail of agency workers through agency worker contracts on a staff substitutionary basis to support the Integr8 Programme's delivery. During July 2026, the Integr8 Programme had access to 12 agency workers from Techspire.

3. Provide information regarding Techspire above by quarter since beginning of the contract.

   The Department does not hold a direct contract with Techspire.

Details of the number of agency workers from Techspire working on the Programme by quarter are as follows:

Quarter	Number of agency workers
Q3 2025	5
Q4 2025	7
Q1 2026	7
Q2 2026	11
Q3 2026	12

4. Share all documentations linked to the procurement exercise to commission Techspire consultants.

   No procurement exercise was undertaken by the Department to directly commission Techspire resources.

5. What has been the cost of Techspire consultants by financial year, including projected costs until the end of the 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).

ANNEX B

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST			
Request Ref.	DoF/2026-0429		
Request summary:	Request for information relating to the NICS Integr8 Project and Techspire.		
Information being withheld:	Exemption Applied:	Disclosure	Non - Disclosure
Question 5 - What has been the cost of Techspire consultants by financial year, including projected costs until the end of the year?	Section 43(2) Commercial Interests.	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.	This information relates to the cost of a service 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 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 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 services, the disclosure of these costs could compromise the ability to do so in the future.

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 the service provider.

Signed: Date: 27/08/2026

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.