

Request

1. I am writing to request all information, minutes and costings connected with the new stadium build at Casement Park.
2. I would like to know what meetings have taken place with the Minister and those who are going to be recipients of the funding since the restoration of devolution?
3. How much has been allocated to date?
4. How much was agreed under the stadium strategy?
5. What plans there is in the Department to fund the shortfall caused by the collapse of the Stormont institutions?
6. The total amount awarded to Rugby and Football?
7. What the timescale is now in place for the Casement project?

DoF Response

1. I am writing to request all information, minutes and costings connected with the new stadium build at Casement Park.
7. What the timescale is now in place for the Casement project?

The information you have requested is covered by an exception under Regulation 12(4)(e) Internal Communications. Under EIR there is a requirement to carry out a Public Interest Test, this is attached at Annex B.

2. I would like to know what meetings have taken place with the Minister and those who are going to be recipients of the funding since the restoration of devolution?

The information you have requested is made available under Regulation 6 as the Department does not need to provide information if the information is available in another form or format, or if the information is already publicly available and accessible in another form or format.– details of Minister's meetings with external organisations for the period 13 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 are published on the Open Data NI portal, see link below.

<https://www.opendatani.gov.uk/dataset/ministers-meetings-with-external-organisations-and-individuals-january-to-june-2020>

Details of Minister's meetings for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 are covered by an exception under Regulation 12 (4)(d) information is incomplete or unfinished This information will be published on the Open Data NI portal on 26 February 2021. Under EIR there is a requirement to carry out a Public Interest Test, this is attached at Annex C.

3. How much has been allocated to date?

DoF do not hold this information. This can be obtained from foi@communities-ni.gov.uk

4. How much was agreed under the stadium strategy?

DoF do not hold this information. This can be obtained from foi@communities-ni.gov.uk.

5. What plans there is in the Department to fund the shortfall caused by the collapse of the Stormont institutions?

There is no information held.

6. The total amount awarded to Rugby and Football?

DoF do not hold this information. This can be obtained from foi@communities-ni.gov.uk and Sport NI foi@sportni.net.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – Regulation 12(4)(e) Internal Communications

Request Ref:	DOF/2021-0041	Requester:	Carla Lockhart		Member of Parliament for Upper Bann
Request Summary:	Request all information, minutes and costings connected with the new stadium build at Casement Park. What the timescale is now in place for the Casement project?				

Information Details:	Exemption/ Exception Applied	Disclosure	Non-Disclosure
		(Please complete both columns to show all factors have been considered)	
Points 1 and 7	Regulation 12(4)(e) Internal Communications	<p>There is a presumption of a general public interest in disclosure.</p> <p>It would promote transparency and accountability of public authorities, greater public awareness and confidence in The Executive's policy and decision-making processes.</p>	<p>While frank and open debate is a key component of high quality policy formulation, there is a public interest, in appropriate situations, in maintaining a private space for internal deliberation and decision making processes.</p> <p>The Department needs to be able to discuss and evaluate various policy options with candour and the release of material outlining the discussions between colleagues across government may inhibit that. The disclosure of such material would diminish the quality of the decision making process, resulting in weaker policy formulation.</p> <p>In addition, there is a risk that sharing details of the many potential scenarios and associated implications being examined might create unnecessary concern and alarm.</p> <p>While disclosure of this information may better inform the public about ongoing policy developments and discussions taking place, there is a significant risk that the release of certain information could impact on future relations. The Department, needs a safe space within which to debate live policy issues freely and frankly and the release of this information could prevent views and opinions being expressed which would prejudice policy development and its subsequent implementation.</p>

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – Regulation 12(4)(e) Internal Communications

PUBLIC INTEREST DECISION: In balancing where the public interest lies, the Department contends that public interest considerations against disclosure are predominant, and the public interest is better served by non-disclosure of the information contained within these pages at this time.

Signed:

DECISION MAKER

ANNEX C

Request for Information	Information Withheld	Exception under the Environmental Information Regulations	Public Interest Test Regulation 12(4)(d)	
			For Disclosure	Against Disclosure
I would like to know what meetings have taken place with the Minister and those who are going to be recipients of the funding since the restoration of devolution.	This information is due to be published on the Open Data Ni portal on 26 February 2021	Regulation 12(4)(d) incomplete/ unfinished	<p>I. the right of the public to have access to information;</p> <p>II. to demonstrate governments commitment to transparency and openness</p>	<p>I The information is incomplete and unfinished. It is still being checked. It is the intention that accurate and therefore more useful data will be published.</p> <p>II. At the time of this request there was and remains a firm intention to publish the requested information. The anticipated publication date is 26 February.</p> <p>III. There is no overriding public interest in the information being released prior to the intended publication date particularly as this is relatively close.</p> <p>IV. The process of data verification can continue uninterrupted.</p> <p>VI. Where information is intended for publication the Department is entitled to control the timetable for publication ensuring that the information is made widely available for public debate rather than to one individual.</p>