

ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2022-0304

Request

Today, Minister Poots said that the pot of Barnett Consequentials from Westminster, primarily allocated for the cost of living crisis, has already been dramatically decreased due to Departments applying and drawing down funds.

Please provide information as to:

The amount each Department has applied for; the date/s each Department applied; how much each Department has received; the date/s each Department received; and, the budget allocation description for each amount.

Response

I can confirm the Department holds information on additional funding pressures which were received from departments by 10th June. However this information falls within an exemption under Section 35 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 35 (1) states- Information held by a government departmentis exempt information if it relates to – (a) the formulation or development of government policy.

The application of a *qualified* exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Department to conduct a public interest test, and this is detailed below at Annex B below.

None of the additional Barnett consequentials received since the draft Budget can be allocated in the absence of an Executive and therefore no department has received the Barnett consequential funding referred to in the request.