

Annex B

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST			
Request Ref:	DoF/2023-0251		
Request summary:	Senior Civil Servants who are on over £100k p/a for 2022/23		
Information details:	Exemption Applied	Disclosure (Please complete both columns to show all factors have been considered)	Non-disclosure
Senior Civil Servants who are on over £100k p/a for 2022/23	S22 Information intended for future publication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority; There is a general public interest in the accountability, openness and transparency of government, and to promote public understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on pay in the Northern Ireland Civil Service for the 2022/2023 financial year will be published by NISRA in October 2023, as per the HRCS Publication Schedule. NISRA carries out standard internal quality assurance checks on this data which may result in the information requested being subject to ongoing change in the run-up to publication. It is in the public interest that the quality assurance process is concluded before making this information available to the public to ensure accuracy and consistency of messaging and thereby confidence in what we report. As the information requested is of notable interest to the wider public, it is important that it can be accessed by all interested parties at the same time in an accurate form. This is in line with the Official Statistics Code of Practice which states: 'Statistics and data should be equally available to all, not given to some people before others. They should be published at a sufficient level of detail and remain publicly available.'
<p>PUBLIC INTEREST DECISION: After weighing up the competing public interest considerations, we consider it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information held should be withheld from disclosure until the future date of publication (section 22[1]) and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.</p>			
Signed: Alexander Fitzpatrick		Date: 07 July 2023	