

FOI DOF/2024-0038

Request

I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding information related to the organisation's gas and electricity contracts, as well as details on the energy management system.

****Gas and Electricity Contracts: ****

1. Energy Provider
2. Annual Spend for each provider for the past 3 financial years.
3. Contract Duration (Including any extensions)
4. Contract start date
5. Contract Expiry Date
6. Contract Review Dates
7. Contact details of the person responsible, including job title
8. Total Consumption of Gas, please provide me with the latest figure in cubic metres.
9. Total Consumption of Electricity (NHH), please provide me with latest figure in kWh for the past 3 financial years.
10. Total Consumption of Electricity (HH), please provide me with latest figure in kWh for the past 3 financial years.
11. Contact details of the person responsible, including job title at the very least

Energy Management System Contract(s) - Contract(s) relating to the organisation's energy management system. An energy management system (EMS) is a system of computer-aided tools used by operators of electric utility grids to monitor, control, and optimise the performance of the generation or transmission system.

Energy Management System Provider

1. Annual Spend
2. Contract Duration (Including any extensions)
3. Contract Expiry Date
4. Contract start date
5. Contract Review Date
6. Contract Description – A description of the services provided.
7. Brand of the software
8. Total number of meter points for electricity:
 - a. Non-Half Hourly (NHH) meter points
 - b. Half Hourly (HH) meter points
9. Total number of Gas meter points
10. Total number of meter points for specialist gases and liquids

11. Contact details of the person responsible, including job title

DoF response

I can confirm that the Department holds some of the information you have requested and the information held is provided below in the order of the aforementioned request.

Gas and Electricity Contracts

1. The current energy providers are: Natural Gas – Firmus Energy, Unmetered Electricity – PowerNI, Metered Electricity – Electric Ireland.
2. The annual spend* for each provider for the past 3 financial years is:

	PowerNI	Electric Ireland	Firmus
2020/21	£3,056	£2,500,627	£1,228,483
2021/22	£422	£2,990,433	£2,110,755
2022/23	£670	£3,585,916	£2,096,336

*Please Note: This expenditure only relates to Electricity and Gas consumption in buildings on the Department of Finance (DoF) Office Estate.

3. The contract durations (including any extensions) are as follows:

Natural Gas – Firmus Energy. 3 year contract period
Unmetered Electricity – *PowerNI. 1 year contract period
Metered Electricity – Electric Ireland. 3 year contract period

*Please Note: A new contract for unmetered electricity has recently been awarded to PowerNI for a 2 year period (01/04/2024 – 31/03/2026).

4. The contract start dates are as follows:

Natural Gas – Firmus Energy. Start date 01/04/2024
Unmetered Electricity – *PowerNI. Start date 01/04/2023
Metered Electricity – Electric Ireland. Start date 01/04/2022

*Please Note: A new contract for unmetered electricity has recently been awarded to PowerNI. Contract start date 01/04/2024

5. The contract expiry dates are as follows:

Natural Gas – Firmus Energy. Expiry date 31/03/2026

Unmetered Electricity – *PowerNI. Expiry date 31/03/2024

Metered Electricity – Electric Ireland. Expiry date 31/03/2025

*Please Note: A new contract for unmetered electricity has recently been awarded to PowerNI. Contract expiry date 31/03/2026.

6. The contracts are reviewed periodically on performance. Generally, work on replacement contracts commences within 12 months in advance of the current contract's expiry date.
7. Construction and Procurement Delivery (within the Department of Finance) is responsible for putting the contractual arrangements in place. Each Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) department is responsible for managing their own usage of the contract.
8. The Department does not hold this information prior to April 2023. Firmus gas only started detailing the information from April 2023. For the period April 2023 to December 2023, the total consumption of gas for buildings on the DoF Office Estate is 76,367m³.
9. The total consumption of electricity (NHH) in Kwh for the DoF managed Office Estate for the past 3 financial years is as follows:
- 2020/21 – 461,393 Kwh
 - 2021/22 – 503,977 Kwh
 - 2022/23 – 448,635 Kwh.
10. The total consumption of electricity (HH) in Kwh for the DoF managed Office Estate for the past 3 financial years is as follows:
- 2020/21 – 21,877,644 Kwh
 - 2021/22 – 21,182,152 Kwh
 - 2022/23 – 19,611,111 Kwh

11. The contracts are managed by the Collaborative Energy category team in Construction and Procurement Delivery, although each NICS department is responsible for managing its own Energy usage. The category team can be contacted on (028) 9081 6031 or by email at: - collaboration.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk. The category manager is Aislinn Gray.

Energy Management System Provider

The Department does not have an energy management system. The Department's understanding is that it doesn't hold any information on EMS systems based on the clarified definition "An energy management system (EMS) is a system of computer-aided tools used by operators of electric utility grids to monitor, control, and optimise the performance of the generation or transmission system.