

FOI DOF/2024-0074

Request**Domestic rates in Northern Ireland**

I was hoping you could tell me the following information for the financial years 2016/17 to the latest available data:

1. How many properties in Northern Ireland are required to pay regional rates?
2. How many properties in Northern Ireland actually pay regional rates?
3. How many properties in Northern Ireland have partial or full exemption from paying regional rates?
4. Please break down how many have a partial exemption and full exemption?

Clarified received on 21/2/24 as:

1. i.e. domestic rates in general
2. i.e. the number that having been issued a bill have paid in full
3. Re: exemptions - the number of properties in receipt of each type of allowance, exclusions or reliefs and the number which get full relief (100%), or partial, or none

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested however, under Section 12 of the FOI Act, the department has estimated that the cost of complying with your request is £2,100.00. This exceeds the appropriate limit of £600.00, as set out in the Fees Regulations.

The breakdown of costs has been supplied below:

Number of documents to extract and review	Estimate of time per document to review and include or discard	Number of hours (Documents x time to review)	Total estimated cost - hours x £25/hour
84 datafiles (12 files per year x seven years)	60 minutes per datafile	84 x 60 = 5040 minutes = 84 hours	84 hours x 25 = £2,100.00

You may wish to submit a refined request for information to fall within the fees threshold, for example, reducing the date range or the number of questions asked. However, even if the request is narrowed, some of the information may still not be considered suitable for release to you, for example, if it is considered

exempt under any provision of the FOI Act, such as commercially sensitive information or third-party personal data.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact the FOI/EIR Team at foi@finance-ni.gov.uk