

**Central Services & Contingency Planning  
Group**

Office of the Permanent Secretary



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Our reference:** DAERA/23-41

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Office of the Permanent Secretary  
Room 636  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Ballymiscaw  
Belfast BT4 3SB  
Telephone: 028 [REDACTED]  
Email: [perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk)

27 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000**

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 31 January that sought the following information:

1. The cost of the PwC report(s);
2. If the final cost of this has not yet been established, please provide an estimate of the costs and/or the costs known so far via bills, invoices etc;
3. The cost of the new NICS Raising a Concern Policy Framework;
4. The cost of the "refreshed" Civil Service Code of Ethics; and
5. If the final cost of the reports in Q3&4 have not yet been established, for each please provide an estimate of the costs and/or the costs known so far via bills, invoices etc.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm, in relation to points 1 and 2 above, the full cost of the External Independent Review is £106,970.98 excluding VAT. You may wish to note that this information is published on the DAERA website at [External Independent Review - PwC Reports and NICS Action Plan | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/external-independent-review-pwc-reports-and-nics-action-plan)

In relation to points 3 to 5 above, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Department.

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If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing [daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk) or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

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