

EIR Request (received 27 June 2024) - Reference: DFI/2024-0276

I'd like to submit a Freedom of Information request relating to flooding which occurred last year in Northern Ireland - particularly in Newry, Downpatrick and Portadown.

- How much money has it cost the department in appointing the consultancy company Jacobs, to undertake a review into flooding which occurred in Co Armagh and Co Down in November 2023?
- How much has this review cost the department in total?

Response (issued 26 July 2024)

Thank you for your email of 27th June 2024 requesting under the Freedom of Information regulations, information relating to flooding which occurred last year in Northern Ireland.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department, I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is for information that relates to activities, policies or plans that affect the environment. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi-eir-and-access-to-information/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/>.

I will respond to issues you have raised as follows:

1. *How much money has it cost the department in appointing the consultancy company Jacobs, to undertake a review into flooding which occurred in Co Armagh and Co Down in November 2023.*

I can advise that the Department had appointed Jacobs under a framework contract to supply professional services prior to the Autumn 2023 flood event. The only additional cost to the Department to appoint Jacobs to undertake the review of the South East flood in Autumn 2023 relates to Departmental staff time associated with formal instruction to carry out the review. The staff time associated with setting up the Review is not held.

2. *How much has this review cost the department in total.*

The information requested is not held at this time.

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