

FOI Request DFC/2026 – 0166 – Usage of Custom House Square

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information relating to the usage of Custom House Square in Belfast.

For each of the last 10 calendar years, could you please provide:

1. The number of days on which Custom House Square was used for:

- * concerts
- * festivals
- * markets
- * public events
- * private events
- * filming/television production
- * any other organised activity

2. Where possible, a breakdown of the type of event/activity for each year.

3. The number of days each year in which the square was not in active programmed use and remained vacant or unused.

4. Any available information regarding:

- * footfall studies
- * public realm activation strategies
- * plans or proposals to increase day-to-day usage of the square

5. Any revenue generated from hire or commercial use of the square for each of the last 10 years.

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Information Disclosed

Response to FOI Request DFC/2026-0166

A copy of the information is enclosed below.

Please Note: In line with the Department's document retention policy, records are held for a period of five years.

- 1. The number of days on which Custom House Square was used for:**
 - * concerts**
 - * festivals**
 - * markets**
 - * public events**
 - * private events**
 - * filming/television production**
 - * any other organised activity**
- 2. Where possible, a breakdown of the type of event/activity for each year.**

Custom House Square - No of Days by Event Type

Event Type	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Concerts	37	36	56	57	105
Festivals	61	71	109	59	81
Markets	0	0	0	0	0
Public Events	1	4	1	2	1
Private Events	0	0	7	0	0
Filming/television Production	0	0	1	5	3
Total	99	111	174	123	190

- 3. The number of days each year in which the square was not in active programmed use and remained vacant or unused.**

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vacant or Unused Days – including cleaning/maintenance/upgrade works	266	254	190	242	175

4. Any available information regarding:

- * footfall studies**
- * public realm activation strategies**
- * plans or proposals to increase day-to-day usage of the square**

This information is not held by the Department.

5. Any revenue generated from hire or commercial use of the square for each of the last 10 years.

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
Revenue	£17,845	£22,880	£46,170	£85,310	£31,925