

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. A copy of the most recent sub-regional stadia program for soccer business case
2. A breakdown of all spend to date on the sub-regional stadia program for soccer
3. A breakdown of representations made to the each Communities Minister relating to the sub-regional stadia program in each of the past 6 years



Department for
Communities

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FOI Ref DFC/2022-0177

Dear

Date: 23/12/2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information you requested on 29 November 2022. I wish to advise you that some of the information cannot be disclosed for the reasons given in the annex attached to this letter. Further clarification has also been sought in relation to the 'representations' you are referring to. The Department will consider this request when further clarification is provided.

Below details your request and the Department's response.

A copy of the most recent Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer business case

This information has not been disclosed as it relates to the formulation or development of government policy – See Annex A. A full business case for the Programme has not yet been approved.

A breakdown of all spend to date on the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer

Information in relation to costs of the programme, prior to March 2022, were provided to you in a previous FOI request. A copy of this has been attached for your information. Below provides a breakdown of the costs after your request dated 13 April 2022 until December 2022.

Strategic Investment Board – Advice on Programme development options -
£4,660.10

Construction and Procurement Delivery – Advice on procurement and inflationary impacts- £3,723.95

Task and Finish Group/ Sports Ground Safety Authority – Advice on needs - £40,545.56

DfC Resource – Internal staffing resources - £87,178.98

A breakdown of representations made to each of the Communities Minister relating to the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer in each of the past 6 years

A letter was issued to you on 14 December 2022 seeking further clarification. Consideration of this point will be completed on return of the clarification request.

If you are dissatisfied with this response and wish to request a review of our decision or make a complaint about how your request has been handled, you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. You should write to the Information Access Manager, Department for Communities, Level 5, Nine Lanyon Place, BELFAST, BT1 3LP, or send an email to foi@communities-ni.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of our original decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

**Sub-Regional Stadia Programme for Soccer
Email**

Annex A

Public Interest Test

Regulation 35(1) Information held by a government department is exempt information if it relates to—

(a) the formulation or development of government policy

Factors for disclosure	Factors for withholding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate accountability and transparency • There is public interest in being able to assess the decision-making process and to understand the extent to which various factors influenced those decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of this information would hinder the ability of the Department to take forward this policy as intended • As this is still policy under development there is a requirement to protect internal deliberation and decision-making processes • There is a need for safe space for the Department to continue to develop ideas, debate issues and reach decision without external interference and distraction.

Outcome of Public Interest Test

Reasons why public interest favours withholding information

It is vital that the Department is able to take forward the development of the programme within a 'safe-space' to protect internal deliberation and the decision-making process. Disclosure of this information would affect the quality of discussion and debate.

In view of this, the Department believes that, the public interest in withholding the information in relation to the formulation or development of policy outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Type of Document	Applicable Exemption
Strategic Outline Case (Draft)	Section 35 – formulation of government policy