



Northern
Ireland
Office

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1 2HQ
T 020 7210 0236
T 0207 210 6464

Stormont House
Belfast
BT4 3SH

E SoS.Bradley@nio.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/nio
Follow us on Twitter @NIOgov

Robert Campbell
Managing Director
Ulster Human Rights Watch
The Victoria Suite
Brownlow House
Windsor Avenue
Lurgan, BT69 9BJ

15 February 2019

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter to me of 10 December 2018. I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

You have raised an important point in your letter and I can clarify that the Executive Formation and Exercise of Functions Act has enabled Northern Ireland Departments to exercise some of the functions of devolved Ministers. However, I understand that DFC and PRONI have taken on board the advice of the Information Commissioner and are of the view that they cannot release this information in the absence of a Minister. This is a decision for the Department and I do not intend to intervene in this instance.

This is because I am very clear that decisions such as those you have queried are properly the place of devolved Ministers in Northern Ireland, making decisions on behalf of all of the people of Northern Ireland. This is why the UK Government remains committed to ensuring the restoration of devolved institutions - a commitment which remains a priority for me in my capacity as Secretary of State.

Furthermore, I also wish to assure you that in relation to legacy policy more widely, the UK Government are wholly committed to developing a legacy policy that delivers for victims and survivors and moves Northern Ireland society forward.

This is why in 2018 my Department completed a legacy consultation with a wide-range of stakeholders with the objective of creating a fair, balanced and proportionate legacy system. Almost 17,000 responses were received and my officials are now considering these to identify the way forward.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BRADLEY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND