



## PBNI Disclosure Log – Response to Request

### Category: Information Technology

Request Reference: 023.01.21

Date of Request: 30 March 2021

Date of Response: 12 April 2021

#### Request

Dear Probation Board for Northern Ireland,

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could I request the following information:

- 1) Please advise what technologies (including version) you use for:

	Name of technology	Version used
HR		
Payroll		
L&D		
Finance		
Procurement		
Contact Centre		

- 2) Please advise if any of the following services are outsourced to third parties, and if so, when does the contract end?

	Outsourced?	If so, name of organisation outsourced to	Contract end date
HR			
Payroll			
L&D			
Finance			
Procurement			
Contact Centre			

#### Response

**Q1** Your first question – This question falls within the remit of Freedom of Information Act, (FOIA) in respect of recorded information (s84). However, we are unable to provide you with some of the information you have requested because it is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1) (a) of the FOI Act. Section 31 (1) (a) exempts information if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

Section 31 (1) (a) is a qualified exemption and we are required to conduct a public interest test when applying any qualified exemption. This means that after it has been decided that the exemption is engaged, the public interest in releasing the information must be considered. If the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding it then the exemption does not apply and the information must be released. In the FOI Act there is a presumption that information should be released unless there are compelling reasons to withhold it.

The public interest test has now been concluded and the balance of the public interest has been found to fall in favour of withholding information covered by the section 31(1) (a) exemption. Considerations in favour of the release of the information included the principle that there is a public interest in transparency and accountability in disclosing information about government procedure and contracts. However, release of this information would make the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) more vulnerable to crime. The crime in question here would be a malicious attack on the Probation Board for Northern Ireland’s computer systems. As such release of this information would be seen to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime by making PBNI’s computer systems more vulnerable to hacking therefore facilitating the possibility of a criminal offence being carried out. There is an overwhelming public interest in keeping PBNI’s computer systems secure which would be served by non-disclosure. This would outweigh any benefits of release. It has therefore been decided that the balance of the public interest lies clearly in favour of withholding the material on this occasion.

Further guidance on section 31 can be found here:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1207/law-enforcement-foi-section-31.pdf>

**Q2** Your second question has been answered in the format you provided in your email above.

	Outsourced?	If so, name of organisation outsourced to	Contract end date
HR	YES (INDEPENDENT HR & GUIDANCE SERVICES)	HEADSTOGETHER	2023
Payroll	YES (PAYROLL SUPPORT ONLY)	CINTRA PAYROLL SYSTEMS	2023
L&D	YES (E-LEARNING CONTENT PROVIDER AND LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)	E-LEARNING – LEARNING POOL LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – POWERHOUSE HUB (MEDIASPHERE)	2021 2023
Finance	YES	ACCOUNT NI	2022(COLLABORATIVE NICS CONTRACT)
Procurement	NO		
Contact Centre	N/A		

If you are unhappy with the way PBNI has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review using our complaints procedure. A copy of our [complaints procedure](#) is available on our website [www.pbni.org.uk](http://www.pbni.org.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 decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

Please note that PBNI publishes responses to requests for information on its website where we believe there may be a wider public interest. If requests are published they are anonymised i.e. details of the requester are not published.