

## PBNI Disclosure Log – Response to Request

Request Reference: 024.04.01

Date of Request: 20 March 2024

Date of Response: 19 April 2024

### Request and Response

Under Freedom of Information legislation please clarify the position for all agencies and authorities under departmental remit/funding in terms of retaining external companies to carry out work including consultants, research, law firms (excluding counsel), scoping and auditing?

Please clarify if such are required to go through tendering and procurement procedures and if there are any exceptions to this.

Also please provide a copy of any departmental or governance policy and/or approved position in this regard.

### Response

External companies will be engaged by PBNI under government procurement rules and policy, including consultants, research/law firms (excluding counsel), scoping and auditing. The value, scale and nature of the procurement/contract will define the requirements of each exercise, e.g. whether this is a quotes basis or a full tender specification in conjunction with Department of Finance CPD procurement control limits as set out under [PPN 04/21 'Procurement Control Limits'](#). We would also note that PBNI utilise wider government shared services for legal and auditing services.

If you have any queries about this letter, or if you feel I have misinterpreted your request please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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.