

EIR Request (received 11 October 2022) - Reference: DFI/2022-0334

Can I submit the following Freedom of Information (2000) Environmental Regulations (2004) request in relation to the following traffic matter:

As the Department is aware applications are made to its office for road closures in and around the Kingspan Stadium on Ulster Rugby match nights by a traffic management company. Previously those closures included Onslow Parade and several other streets in the immediate area including some in the Cregagh Estate.

1. Can the Department please provide a copy of the application for the Traffic Control Permit for Onslow Parade in relation to the Ulster Rugby match for 8th October 2022?
2. Can the Department please provide a copy of all other applications made for Traffic Control Permits for the same Ulster Rugby match on 8th October 2022?
3. Can the Department please provide a copy of the application for the Traffic Control Permit for Onslow Parade in relation to the Ulster Rugby match on 30th September 2022?
4. Can the Department also please provide a copy of all other applications made for Traffic Control Permits for the same Ulster Rugby match on 30th September 2022?
5. Can the Department please provide a copy of the application for the Traffic Control Permit for Onslow Parade in relation to the Ulster Rugby match on the 23rd September 2022?
6. Can the Department also please provide a copy of all other applications made for Traffic Control Permits for the same Ulster Rugby match on the 23rd September 2022?
7. Can the Department also please provide copies of all Permits that it issued against the above applications?

Response (issued 07 November 2022)

Thank you for your email dated 11 October 2022 to DfI Information Management Unit, in which you request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, further information regarding Ulster Rugby matches.

As this is a matter that lies within Eastern Divisions area of responsibility the matter has been referred to me for reply.

You have asked the following:

1. *Can the Department please provide a copy of the application for the Traffic Control Permit for Onslow Parade in relation to the Ulster Rugby match for 8th October 2022?*
2. *Can the Department please provide a copy of all other applications made for Traffic Control Permits for the same Ulster Rugby match on 8th October 2022?*
3. *Can the Department please provide a copy of the application for the Traffic Control Permit for Onslow Parade in relation to the Ulster Rugby match on 30th September 2022?*
4. *Can the Department also please provide a copy of all other applications made for Traffic Control Permits for the same Ulster Rugby match on 30th September 2022?*
5. *Can the Department please provide a copy of the application for the Traffic Control Permit for Onslow Parade in relation to the Ulster Rugby match on the 23rd September 2022?*
6. *Can the Department also please provide a copy of all other applications made for Traffic Control Permits for the same Ulster Rugby match on the 23rd September 2022?*
7. *Can the Department also please provide copies of all Permits that it issued against the above applications?*

In considering your request on behalf of the department I have again determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, as opposed to the FOI Act 2000. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information. EIR gives rights of public access environmental information held by public authorities.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/what-are-the-eir/>.

In reply to your query, I can advise that there is no record of an application on our computer system for Onslow Parade for 8 October 2022. There were however two applications for Onslow Gardens. We can only assume there has been an administrative error and this was not picked up by the Division. If however an application had have been received for Onslow Parade it would have been granted in the normal fashion (addressing point 1 above).

I have enclosed a copy of the other applications for the Traffic Control Permits in relation to the Ulster Rugby match on 8 October 2022 (addressing point 2 above).

In addition please find enclosed a copy of the application for the Traffic Control Permit for Onslow Parade in relation to the Ulster Rugby match on 30 September 2022 and other applications for that date (addressing points 3 and 4 above).

I can advise that Ulster Rugby were not playing at the Kingspan Stadium on the 23 September 2022 (addressing points 5 and 6 above).

Copies of issued permits attached (addressing point 7 above).

Please note that the attached records have been redacted. The redacted information constitutes third party personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). A public authority may only release third party personal data if to do so would be fair, lawful and would meet the conditions in Schedule 2, 3 or 4 of the DPA. The Department may not disclose personal information to the public in contravention of any of the data protection principles (Article 5(1) UK General Data Protection Regulation or sections 34(1) and 85(1) DPA) and must consider all consequences of disclosure in each case.

The information provided has therefore been redacted under the exception provided under EIR by Regulation 12(3) & 13: personal information. I am satisfied that the public interest is best served by withholding this information.

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