

ANNEX A

LAWFULNESS, FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY TEST

DAERA/26-414 Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request details:

The requestor is asking for copies of minutes and/or notes taken during a meeting held on 15 June 2026 between Minister Andrew Muir MLA with New USPCA Chair Baroness Sue Gray and Chief Executive Heath Weir to discuss the vital work of the USPCA plus future policy & legislation to safeguard animal welfare and opportunities to constructively work together.

Brief description of the Personal Data falling within the scope of the request:

Third party personal data

LAWFULNESS

Please identify the lawful bases for processing

Personal data is processed when it is lawfully disclosed in response to an FOI request.

The lawful bases for processing are set out in Article 6 of the GDPR and the ICO expects at least one of two lawful bases (Consent / Legitimate Interest) to apply before the personal data held can be disclosed.

- ☐ **Consent:** This will apply when the data subject(s) clear consent exists that allows you to disclose the personal data falling within the scope of this request.
- ☐ **Legitimate interests:** the processing is necessary for the Department's legitimate interests or the legitimate interests of a third party that overrides the data subject(s) rights and freedoms, particularly their right to privacy.

Consideration of Legitimate Interests

1. PURPOSE

As the disclosure of personal data under FOI is to the world at large doing so on the strength of a requester's private interests alone could constitute a disproportionate and unwarranted level of interference with the data subject(s) rights and freedoms, particularly their right to privacy and family life under the Human Rights Act 1998.

2. NECESSITY

The right of access under FOI does not in itself constitute a **pressing social need**. The Department has considered and not identified any such need for the data subject's right to privacy to be interfered with.

CONCLUSION

Having considered all of the information contained within this test, the Department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of third party personal data falling within the scope of the request of which the requester is not the data subject.

VSAHG