

Our reference: OIC-118929-Y6T0T4

Dear Ms X

I refer to your correspondence with this Office about your FOI request to the North Connacht and Ulster Citizen Information Service (CIS) and its reply informing you that it is not subject to the FOI Act.

Section 6(1) of the FOI Act contains details of the bodies that are considered to be public bodies for the purposes of the Act. I understand the CIS is established as an independently operated limited company and is a registered charity. While I note your comments about the amount of public funding paid to CIS companies, it is clear, having regard to the definition of a public body in section 6(1) of the Act, that this CIS is not a public body for the purposes of the FOI Act.

As you noted in your correspondence with this Office, Section 7 of the FOI Act provides that the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform may prescribe certain entities as prescribed bodies for the purpose of the Act. While the Citizen Information Service may fall within the description of the types of entities that may be prescribed for the purposes of the FOI Act, the fact remains that no such bodies have been prescribed in this manner to date.

In the circumstances, this Office has no role in reviewing the decision of the CIS as it is not subject to the FOI Act.

I am sorry we are unable to assist you in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Richard Crowley

Office of the Information Commissioner

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