

FOI 3812

7th July 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question: I request copies of records relating to the outsourcing and transfer of Catering Services from Health & Social Services (pre-Trust structure) to Gardner Merchant in or around 1990–1991.

Specifically, I request:

- 1. The contract award documentation appointing Gardner Merchant for Catering Services.**
- 2. Any TUPE transfer agreement(s) or contractual provisions relating to the transfer of staff.**
- 3. Employee liability schedules (with personal data redacted where necessary).**
- 4. Any pension-related provisions, side letters, guarantees, or indemnities concerning transferring staff.**
- 5. Board or Committee minutes approving the outsourcing decision.**
- 6. Consultation documents issued to trade unions or staff representatives.**
- 7. Any correspondence between the Health & Social Services Board and Gardner Merchant relating to staff terms and pension protection.**

If similar cases have been considered previously, I would welcome information on how they were resolved and the arrangements made for compensating staff.

If records are held by a predecessor organisation, I request that this application be forwarded to the appropriate records holder, or that I be advised where the records are archived (for example PRONI reference numbers if applicable).

Response: This information is not held.

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