

Band 8A & Above

Current government policy is to promote greater transparency throughout the public sector by more proactive publication of information. This has a bearing on what information employees may reasonably expect us to disclose under FOI.

It is the protocol of Belfast Trust to make public the names and email addresses of employees of a senior standing – Band 8A and above (including switchboard telephone number 028 9024 0503), as that banding carries a greater level of accountability. Those who fall below that Band are exempt and so their names would not be released.

Senior staff should be made aware of this when new into a role. Indeed, it is covered in our FOI training to staff, which senior managers should have participated in, especially if they are involved in providing responses to FOIs. It will also be covered in an upcoming Public Liaison Update (which is sent to Directors and Co Directors with a request to be filtered to senior staff within their Directorates).

There will of course be occasions when the nature and sensitivity of a request will require us to review this and we will be happy to discuss this on a case by case basis directly with the Co Director.

We are aware that some senior staff eg. Clinical Directors may have access to a particular piece of software that others would not, and so we would need to take into account whether the request was in fact a phishing exercise. This is not something Public Liaison would know and we would need your help to understand.

More guidance on this topic is available at the link below:
[Requests for personal data about public authority employees \(ico.org.uk\)](https://ico.org.uk)