

Access to Public Information Request

Date of receipt: 1 September 2020

Date of response: 17 September 2020

Access to Public Information request regarding the publishing of information on business supported through the payroll co-funding scheme

Request:

At the start of May P&R said it would begin publishing information on businesses receiving support through the payroll co-funding scheme including the name of the business, the number of employees and the amount of support received. That information has not been published so I would now like to request it under the terms of the API regime.

Response (provided by the Policy & Resources Committee):

The Policy & Resources Committee has stated that it intends to publish details of businesses who receive support through the payroll co-funding scheme, one of the measures introduced to support business impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, while it has signalled this publically in order to give the business community early notice of its intention, it has also said that it has not decided yet the precise level or type of detail that would be appropriate to publish. The Committee continues to receive feedback from businesses which it is considering as it looks at how and what information should be published. It has also asked the Scrutiny Management Committee for its view. Currently, as support through the payroll co-funding scheme continues to be provided to some businesses, the Committee's expectation is that any information will not be published before early 2021. For this reason, exception 2.10 (prematurity in relation to publication) is applied. The Committee also reserves the right to apply 2.13 (Third party's commercial confidences) and 2.14 (Information given in confidence) in relation to the specific information requested by the requestor.