

DE/2026-067– Freedom of Information Request

Request:

I would like to request recorded information relating to the teaching of History within the Northern Ireland curriculum.

Specifically, I request the following:

1. Northern Ireland / Irish History Content

- Details of the topics, themes, or modules covering the history of Northern Ireland and/or Ireland within the curriculum.
- Any guidance documents, curriculum frameworks, or teaching specifications outlining how this history is taught (including key stages and age groups).
- Any materials or guidance addressing how sensitive or contested historical events (e.g. The Troubles) are approached in teaching.

2. United Kingdom History Content

- Details of when and how broader UK history is taught within the curriculum (including key stages, themes, and topics).
- Any official curriculum documents or specifications outlining required UK history content.
- Any guidance on how UK-wide historical narratives are balanced with regional (Northern Ireland-specific) perspectives.

3. South African History / Apartheid

- Whether South African history is included in the curriculum at any stage.
- If so, details of:
 - The specific topics covered (e.g. apartheid, colonial history, Nelson Mandela, etc.).
 - The key stages or age groups at which this content is taught.
 - Any curriculum guidance, teaching materials, or specifications relating to this content.
- Whether South African history is taught as part of a broader theme (e.g. empire, human rights, or global history), and under what context.

4. Supporting Materials and Guidance

- Any curriculum guidance, circulars, or advisory documents issued to schools or teachers relating to history teaching content.
- Any recent reviews, updates, or reforms (since 2015) relating to the history curriculum.

If any of the requested information is publicly available, I would be grateful if you could direct me to the relevant links or documents.

If fulfilling this request would exceed cost limits, I would be happy to refine the scope.

Department Response:

Thank you for your request for information relating to History content within the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Your request is answered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; the response is attached at **Annex A**.

Information is withheld under Section 21 (1). "Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant is exempt information." Information you have sought can be accessed at:

[\(PDF\) The Northern Ireland Curriculum: Primary](#)

[The "Big Picture" of the Curriculum at Primary](#)

[\(PDF\) Statutory Curriculum for Key Stage 3](#)

[The Big Picture of the Curriculum at Key Stage 3](#)

[Learning Resources | CCEA](#)

[Independent Review of Education | Department of Education](#)

[Curriculum and learning | Department of Education](#)

[TransformED | Department of Education](#)

[Curriculum Reform | Department of Education Published](#)

[Circulars | Department of Education](#)

Section 21 is an absolute exemption under the FOI Act and, as such, does not require a public interest test.