



The Burning Bush—Online article archive



The following statement was forwarded to me from the correspondence received by a member of my congregation, from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, dated 23rd July 2008. The correspondence shows the questions asked and the answers received.

We are indebted for the efforts in bringing out the truth of this sad and sordid affair.

The letter from the OFMDFM shows its record of funding of sodomites during 2006-2008.

It also shows that a further £58,000 has yet to be paid over by OFMDFM before the end of March 2009.

It has been repeatedly denied such funding was ever paid over by that office during the tenure of the previous First Minister, Dr Ian Paisley.

The full facts have now, finally, come to light. The closing statement in this correspondence, though couched in that form of diplomatic terminology designed to soften the sharp edge of truth, nevertheless clearly states that denials issued in the past regarding these payments to sodomites are not supported by the records kept by the OFMDFM.

Rev. Ivan Foster.
23rd July 2008.

Letter from OFMDFM.

Please see attached our response to your recent FOI request. Please accept our apologies for the slight delay in providing you with this response.
Regards.

Norah McCorry
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Information Management Unit
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Castle Buildings
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Belfast
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Freedom of Information Act 2000



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I refer to your request which was received on 16th June 2008 for information about the funding of lesbian, gay and bisexual groups. I am writing to confirm that OFMDFM has now completed its search for this information, and I have set out our responses to each of your questions below.

Q.1 "How much money has been provided by OFMDFM to lesbian, gay and bisexual groups in each of the last three years?"

OFMDFM has provided the following amounts under the short term funding package announced by the then Secretary of State, Peter Hain, in July 2006 and agreed by him.

Funding to CoSO from OFMDFM
06/07 £50k
07/08 £100k
08/09 £80k
Total £230,000

Q.2 "On what dates was that money paid by the Department?"

Actual funding to date
March 07 £50,000
July 07 £50,000
February 08 £50,000
TOTAL £150,000



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Q.3 "On Sunday 30th March 2008 in a statement in Martyrs' Memorial Free Presbyterian Church Dr Paisley claimed that money which was to go to lesbian, gay and bisexual groups from the Department was not agreed by him, payments to these groups were held up as a result and, in order to resolve the situation, the money was – somehow – allocated by Westminster rather than the devolved administration. Although Dr Paisley was speaking in his capacity as a minister of religion rather than First Minister, what he says in the statement clearly relates to his duties as First Minister. I request all documentation held by OFMDFM which support the former First Minister's claims."

While the Department holds information relating to the funding of lesbian, gay and bisexual groups, this does not, however, reflect the circumstances you outline above.

In July 2006, the then Secretary of State Peter Hain announced his intention to award short term funding for the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Sector (LGB Sector). A total of up to £230k was awarded to this sector and made available by Direct Rule Ministers in early 2007 for capacity building, community relations and tackling social exclusion. The first payment of funding was made in March 2007 and the final payment is due to be made by end March 2009.