

Client:	Q1 -Did you have business phones or other mobile devices, for example, iPads, issued by NICS?	Q2 – When did you return the devices and who did you return them to?	Q3 – Did you use them for WhatsApp messaging or other informal means of communication, such as SM, on pandemic matters?	Q4 – What was the status of the devices when they were returned to the NICS? i.e., was information still on the devices or had they been reset or had data been erased?
Michelle O'Neill	I was issued with a mobile phone and an iPad device for business purposes by NICS, which I held from January 2020.	I returned the phone to my and the iPad to the Private Office, from memory, at the start of 2023.	I did not use them for WhatsApp or informal communication on pandemic matters.	The devices were reset as was my normal practice in returning devices which had been used for official or sensitive communications
Conor Murphy	I had an iPad provided by the Department of Finance in February 2020 for email contact with the department. My Assembly email account was also provided on it.	I returned it to Private Office in the department when my ministerial role ended in October 2022.	The device was not used for informal messaging.	I removed my Assembly email account from the device prior to returning it to the Department. The department was responsible for it and any information contained on it thereafter.
Deirdre Hargey	I was issued with a mobile phone and iPad for business purposes by NICS, which I held from January 2020 until the end of October 2022. .	All devices were returned to the Private Secretary in the Department of Communities, Louise Anderson at the end of October 2022.	Text messages and whatsapp were used for informal communications like meeting arrangements and sorting diary. Information and communications relating to decision points and policy formulation concerning the pandemic were formally recorded by departmental	Devices were returned once I left office in October 2022 to my knowledge they were not reset.

			officials who have retained these records including minutes of meetings and decisions taken.	
Carál Ní Chuilin	I was issued with a laptop, and phone when I went into the Department on the 15/6/2020. I was later provided with an iPad. From memory, I did not use the DfC mobile phone.	I returned all devices to the DfC Private Office Staff when I left the DfC on the 15/12/2020	I used these devices for formal communication with my Special Advisor and Departmental Officials	I returned all my devices to my Special Advisor when I left the Department for Communities on the 15/12/2020 I do not recall if these devices had been reset
Declan Kearney	When appointed as Junior Minister to The Executive Office I was supplied with a mobile phone and an iPad device for business purposes by NICS. I kept these from January 2020 until my term of office ended in May 2022.	Both devices were returned in May 2022 to my Private Secretary, NR in the Deputy First Minister's office.	A WhatsApp system was downloaded onto these devices. This was used for routine, and informal communications about office administrative and logistical matters, such as travel arrangements, meetings, etc. The established practice for managing information and communications relating to policy and decisions concerning the pandemic was through formal records kept by departmental officials.	I understand that upon return of this equipment in May 2022, data would have been deleted due to the expiry of contracts.
Ronan McGinley	I was issued with a mobile phone. I held this device throughout my time as SpAd (end of January 2020 to end of October 2022).	Both devices were returned to the Private Secretary NR I am unsure of the exact date, however from memory it	Mobile Phone had text (including iMessage) and WhatsApp enabled. From memory, this informal communication was only	As I understand, the Department for Communities hold a robust record system detailing all the required information of

	When Minister Ni Chuilin left in December 2020, I began to use the iPad issued to her and held this device for the remainder of my time as SpAd.	was during WC 31 st October 2022.	used for routine office and administrative purposes. The iPad was not used for WhatsApp or any messaging facility such as text.	decisions made, engagements and meetings regarding Departmental business. This information was recorded and retained by Departmental Officials. From my recollection, the devices were reset before returning them.
Eoin Rooney	I was issued with a mobile phone and an iPad device for business purposes by NICS, which I held from January 2020 until October 2022.	Both devices were returned to the Private Secretary in the Department of Finance, NR on the 3 rd November 2022.	Text messages were used to communicate on routine office administrative/logistic matters only. Information and communications relating to decision points and policy formulation concerning the pandemic were formally recorded by departmental officials who have retained these records.	Devices were returned in October 2022 with messages intact.
John Loughran	I had worked with the Minister for Communities Deirdre Hargey MLA during the month of January 2020 into early February. I cannot recall whether I was issued with a mobile phone through the department. I was issued with a laptop. Early February 2020 I went to work as a Special Advisor	All devices were returned to the deputy First Ministers Private Office in early February 2022.	WhatsApp was downloaded and used to for routine office matters only. Information and communications relating to decision points and policy formulation concerning the pandemic were formally recorded by departmental officials who have retained these records.	iPhone and iPad were reset and returned at the start of February 2022 to Private Office. The laptop was not reset.

	to the deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA. In early February I was issued with a mobile phone, an iPad and laptop for department business purposes by TEO Private Office. I used these devices until early February 2022.			
Dara O'Hagan	I had a phone and Ipad supplied by the department.	I handed them back to Private Office when I left in February 2022.	I didn't use them for Whatsapp messaging or any other informal means of communication on pandemic matters.	On returning the devices, all the data was erased.
Stephen McGlade	I was issued with a mobile phone and an iPad device for business purposes by NICS, which I held from January 2020 until early February 2022.	Both devices were returned to Principal Private Secretary, Dónal Moran in the Deputy First Ministers office on the 3 rd February 2022..	<p>WhatsApp messenger was downloaded on these devices and used to communicate informally on routine office administrative/logistic matters only.</p> <p>Information and communications relating to decision points and policy formulation concerning the pandemic were formally recorded by departmental officials who have retained these records.</p>	Devices when returned at the start of February 2022 had data erased and my contract ended.
Michelle Canning	Yes, I was furnished with a business mobile and iPad.	The devices would have been returned in late January 2021 at the end of my employment as Special Advisor. Given it was during a period of intense personal	I did not use them for WhatsApp or other informal means of communication	I don't recall. This was back in 2021. And I have held three different jobs since. What I can say is that it is possible any device I used

		<p>crisis, unfortunately I cannot definitively recall at this stage who I may have returned the devices to. It is most likely I would have returned any devices to the Private Office.</p>		<p>would have been reset. My general approach is one of risk aversion and to take precautionary measures to ensure that sensitive and/or financial information, which might be contained on a device, could not be subject to unauthorised disclosure or viewed by those without approved access to do so.</p>
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