

Q: Details of all expense claims made by Peter Hain during his time as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

A: Peter Hain has made no expenses claims from the NIO during his time as Secretary of State.

Q: Details of all refurbishments made to the Secretary of State's official residence in Northern Ireland since 1996 with details of the refurbishment, who requested it be made, the serving Secretary of State, cost of refurbishment and date carried out.

A: I have listed below the refurbishment works since 2000. We do not hold records of the exact dates when works were carried out. No records are held prior to 2000. This list includes works to all areas of the Castle and other buildings on the Estate, including the accommodation used by the Secretary of State. These works were authorised by Hillsborough Castle management in conjunction with its professional advisers; based on need, availability of funds, and the priority over other works. During this time Secretaries of State have had no input into refurbishment works.

The following Secretaries of State have resided at Hillsborough Castle since 1996;

Patrick Mayhew (April 1992 to May 1997);
Mo Mowlam (May 1997 to October 1999);
Peter Mandelson (October 1999 to January 2001);
John Reid (January 2001 to October 2002);
Paul Murphy (October 2002 to May 2005);
Peter Hain May 2005 to current day

Year	Refurbishment Works	Cost
2000/01	Restoration of main structure to listed garden feature (Greek Temple).	£1,841.81
	Sun dial restoration.	£6,428.26
	Throne Room partial redecoration.	£1,965.92
	Restoration of stone elevations to Castle.	£10,804.13
2001/02	Restoration of mosaic floor tiling to listed structure (Greek Temple).	£3,014.20
2002/03	Refurbishment of principle bedrooms (Not Secretary of State's).	£42,680.17
	Refurbishment of doors to state rooms.	£12,631.25
2003/04	Partial refurbishment works to	
	ancillary accommodation (Not Secretary of State's).	£5,515.12
	Refurbishment of apartments (not Secretary of State's).	£9,136.70
	Refurbishment of the Gallery.	£3,583.56
2004/05	Refurbishment of apartments (not Secretary of State's).	£28,315.31
	Refurbishment of external stone steps to historical gardens.	£46,412.50
	Refurbishment of guest bedrooms (not Secretary of State's).	£84,800.00
2005/06	Refurbishment and redecoration of the windows to the Castle.	£17,894.08
	Refurbishment of external stone steps to historical gardens within Estate.	£2,937.50
	Refurbishment of guest bedrooms (not Secretary of State's).	£68,485.58
	Refurbishment of various bathrooms.	£8,609.24
	Refurbishment of apartments (not Secretary of State).	£212,412.98

Q: The annual cost to the taxpayer of the Secretary of State’s official residence for each of the last ten years.

A: As well as providing overnight accommodation for the Secretary of State, the facilities at Hillsborough Castle are also used to provide official hospitality and overnight accommodation for members of the Royal Family, visiting dignitaries and diplomats. Other activities at the Castle include departmental meetings, the Secretary of State’s annual Garden Party and citizenship ceremonies. In addition to its use by the Northern Ireland Office and other Government Departments, charities and local community groups can request to use the facilities, generally for fund raising purposes, and the Castle and grounds are open at certain times of the year for guided tours.

Figures for the annual cost to the tax payer of Hillsborough Castle are only available for the past 5 years, they are;

2005/6	£4,948,666.27
2004/5	£4,377,537.20
2003/4	£4,084,820.61
2002/3	£5,565,526.80
2001/2	£4,998,527.69

The above figures include an amount in respect of cost of capital, and depreciation.