

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details regarding press and communications staff working on behalf of the department.

Please disclose the following, both in terms of head count and full-time equivalent:

- 1. The number of press and communications staff.**
- 2. A breakdown of these staff by job title (e.g. number of press officers, heads of press office, directors of communications, social media staff, etc).**
- 3. The overall spend on salaries for these staff in the year 2024/25.**

DoF response

I can confirm the Department holds the information requested. Please see responses to the questions below.

1. The number of press and communications staff.

The Department of Finance (DoF) has press and communications staff who work on behalf of the Department including Land & Property Services (LPS).

DoF also has staff who work on behalf of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) across all departments. In the interests of transparency details have been included for both – see point 2.

NICS wide services include nidirect, the Government Advertising Unit (GAU) and Integr8.

nidirect is the official government website for citizens providing a service on behalf of all Northern Ireland departments and other public bodies. There were over 33 million visits to the nidirect website during 2024/25.

GAU procures and manages both classified and campaign advertising on behalf of all Northern Ireland departments and other public bodies.

The Integr8 programme will transform how finance and HR services are delivered within the NICS.

2. A breakdown of these staff by job title

Numbers are provided if there is more than one post in place. Where a job title isn't provided the equivalent grade has been listed.

Department of Finance Communications and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Communications and Engagement * • Deputy Director of Communications and Engagement* • Principal Information Officer • 2 x Senior Information Officer • Social Media Editor • Information Officer • Internal communications - Deputy Principal, Staff Officer & Executive Officer 2
Land & Property Services – includes both internal and external communication including operational customer communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Principal • 2 x Staff Officer • 2 x Executive Officer 1 • 1 x Administrative Officer
Integr8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 Change and Communications Project Director • Programme Communication and Engagement Lead • Communications and Engagement Manager • 0.5 Change and Comms Support
Government Advertising Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2 Principal Information Officer (job share) • 2.6 x Senior Information Officers
nidirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Information Officer • 7.1 x Senior Information Officer • Information Officer

*The remit of these roles is wider than press and communications with responsibility for the Minister’s Private Office, Permanent Secretary Office, Media & External Communications and Internal Communications and Engagement teams.

3. The overall spend on salaries for these staff in the year 2024/25.

Spend on salaries for staff in DoF working in external and internal communications on behalf of the Department was £788k.

There was £284.3k spend on salaries for staff working in communications in LPS.

In respect of activities undertaken on behalf of the NICS there was £1.07m spend on salaries during 2024/25.

The above figures include Pension and National Insurance contributions.