

FOI DOF/2025-0717

Request

A - How many suicides have there been by NICS employees in the past 5 years (starting 01/01/2020). Break this figure down by age profile upon death? (Maximum increments of 5 years difference in age - e.g. 16-20, 21-25,26-30 etc) Break this figure down by year (2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025)

B - Can you also provide the overall figure of total NICS employees per each age range at present

Clarification received 02/01/2026

Please also publish that you do not hold the information to part A as this is quite interesting considering the amount of suicides I know of in NICS that this is not being reviewed and monitored for staff wellbeing. In response to part A, I would have thought as part of "death in service", this information would have been retained?

DoF response

I can confirm the Department holds some of the information requested.

A - The information requested on the number of suicides is not held by the Department. The number of suicides is not retained as a sub-category of the recorded "death in service".

B - The table below provides the age profile of NICS staff in post as at month end December 2025 (the most current information held at the time of request). The age groupings are those produced as part of monthly management information.

Age Group	NICS Headcount
16-24	464
25-29	1,450
30-34	1,878
35-39	2,641
40-44	3,845
45-49	3,913
50-54	3,307
55-59	3,597
60-64	2,528
65+	834
Total	24,457

Source: HRConnect Month End December 2025

Note:

Figures show NICS Permanent, Fixed Term, & Casual Employees only apart from staff within HSENI, Crown Solicitor's Office and AGNI.

ANNEX B - INTERNAL REVIEWS

An Internal Review request examines the response based on applied exemptions, search adequacy, or response timeliness.

It is not the following, which will be treated as specified:

- Questions asking for clarification on information provided: Will be treated as part of the original FOI request.
- Additional questions about the information in the response: Will be treated as a new FOI request.
- Questions about the subject not related to the original request: Will be treated as new FOI request.
- Questions regarding how a service operates or why a decision was made: Will be treated as normal business and responded to accordingly.
- Complaints or concerns raised in response to information provided: Will be treated in line with relevant complaints procedure.

To make an Internal Review request:

- **Clearly state:** That you want an internal review of a previous FOI response and provide the necessary details.
- **Follow the timeline:** Be sure to submit your request within 40 working days of receiving the original response. If the Department has not responded at all, you have 40 working days after the original 20-day response period has passed.
- **Wait for a response:** The review is typically completed within 20 working days but can take up to 40 working days in exceptional circumstances. The Department should inform you of any delays.

What the review includes

- A fresh decision based on a reconsideration of all relevant factors.
- An assessment of whether the request was handled correctly and if exemptions were applied appropriately.
- The review will be conducted by someone who was not involved in the original decision.

If you wish to request an internal review, please email foi@finance-ni.gov.uk or write to FOI/EIR Team, Department of Finance, 2nd Floor, Craigantlet Buildings, Stoney Road, Belfast, BT4 3SX.