ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0027

Request

1. How many people are employed in each government department

2. How many in each department have applied for ill health retirement and out of those applied, how many have been successful.

3. And a further breakdown of those successful in their application by grade for the past 5 years.

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

1. Information you have requested is held by the Department but is exempt under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption, and the Department is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information. This information can be found at:

   Employment in the Northern Ireland Civil Service - 1 April 2025 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

2. Staff can ask to be considered for Ill Health Retirement (IHR), but NICS HR may also instigate a referral asking OHS to consider IHR, rather than the individual applying. There were 2379 cases considered for IHR during this period, with 512 of these being successful.

Department	Number of IHR Referrals
DAERA	290
DE	24
DfC	1286
DfE	68
DfI	176
DoF	126
DoH	25
DoJ	372
HSENI	3
TEO	9
Grand Total	2379

3. See below the breakdown of Ill Health Retirements by Department, from the period requested:

Org Prefix	Total
DAERA	52
DE	8
DfC	127
DfE	21
DfI	82
DoF	48
DoH	10
DOJ (inc NIPS)	155
HSENI	1
PPS	8
Total	512