

Annex C

| PUBLIC INTEREST TEST | | | | | |
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| Request Ref: | DoF/ 2026-0136 | Requester: | | Address: | |
| Request summary: | Based on the home address postcode (first four figures, e.g. BT51) of all members of the civil service, outline in table format how many civil servants live in what location. | | | | |
| Information details: | Exemption applied | Disclosure | Non-disclosure | | |
| | | (Please complete both columns to show all factors have been considered) | | | |
| Partial postcodes of all NICS Staff | <p>Section 38 (1) (b) Health and safety.</p> <p>Information is exempt if its disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, would or would be likely to endanger the safety of any individual.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority. There is a general public interest in disclosure of information and I recognise that openness in government may increase public trust in and engagement with the government. To support transparency in public sector procurement by disclosing information about tender competitions, thereby demonstrating that procurement processes are carried out fairly and in line with established procedures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The release of the information may endanger the safety of an individual due to the severe terror threat in Northern Ireland to those working in and for the Department for Justice, including NIPS, FSNI and PPS. Given the sensitive nature of some of the work carried out by the DOJ, some individuals might or might be likely to be exposed to increased risk of targeting or attack should their involvement in certain work be made public. This risk of attack or targeting could be increased depending on where an official lives and in some cases, officials do not let their friends and family know where they work for fear of such attack. There is obviously a strong public interest in avoiding harm to individuals and their families in relation to this matter. The effective security of all Northern Ireland prison establishments relies on key information remaining confidential. Information relating to the staffing in place within NIPS establishments could, if released into the public domain, facilitate a security threat to the NIPS. The same applies to ensuring the safe functioning of the Court system and Forensic Science Services. The release of such information might deter others from accepting such responsibilities in the future and would impair the ability of the Government to discharge its responsibilities for public safety and the defence of the country. | | |

PUBLIC INTEREST DECISION: After weighing up the competing public interest considerations, it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure. Disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the safety of individuals due to the terror threat in Northern Ireland for those delivering the services for the Department of Justice and PPS. Information relating to NIPS and FSNI and PPS have been excluded in entirety with suppression of figures under 5 applied to information relating to employees in the wider DOJ dept. The public interest in maintaining the exemption therefore outweighs the public interest in disclosure. This PIT has been drafted based on advice received from DOJ FOI team and PPS Security Office.

Signed: Olivia Martin

Date: 13 April 2026