

FOI DOF/2026-0068

Request

1. The number of current General Service vacancies at Administrative Officer (AO) and Executive Officer II (EO2) grades within the Northern Ireland Civil Service, located within the BT30 postcode area, including (but not limited to) Downpatrick, Strangford, Seaforde, and any other NICS offices operating within this postcode district.

Where available, a breakdown by department and office location for these vacancies.

DoF response

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

Details of the total vacancies in each department is not held centrally by Department of Finance. Each Civil Service department is responsible for managing its resources – both financial and staff. Each department determines its individual workforce needs and is responsible for ensuring that any additional staffing resources are affordable. When a department identifies a vacancy that needs filled, the request is referred to NICS HR to initiate the process to fill the post. NICS HR liaises with all departments on an ongoing basis to seek to prioritise recruitment activity within allocated financial and staff resources.

NICS HR does not maintain records of vacancies by postcode area, however, we do hold information on vacancies broken down by city/town. Currently there are vacancies in the following towns – Ardglass, Downpatrick, Seaforde and Strangford. Of these only Downpatrick and Strangford have any General Service Administrative Officer (AO) or Executive Officer II (EO2) vacancies.

As at the end of January 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICS HR was managing a caseload of 7 General Service AO vacancies and 10 General Service EO2 vacancies within Downpatrick and Strangford. The breakdown of the Department and office locations is shown in the tables below.

General Service AO vacancies

Office address	DAERA	DfC	DfI	DOJ	Grand Total
Downpatrick Courthouse				2	2
Rathkeltair House	1	3			4
Strangford Ferry Terminal			1		1
Grand Total	1	3	1	2	7

General Service EO2 vacancies

Office address	DfC	DfI	Grand Total
Government Office Downpatrick	9		9
Rathkeltair House		1	1
Grand Total	9	1	10