

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Ref No.	FOI DoF/2026-0175		
Information	Exemption Applied	Reasons for Disclosure	Reasons for Non-Disclosure
<p>4. Currently how many prison service staff are sick and not in work as a result of stress in the workplace and have any directly named the Governor in Charge or any of his Senior Management Team as responsible for their illness.</p> <p>5. In the time of the current Governor in Charge of Hydebank Wood prison how many prison staff (all ranks) have been on sick leave due to stress.</p>	<p>Section 22 – information intended for future publication</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 the accountability, openness and transparency of government, and to promote public understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on sickness absence levels across all business areas and grades in the NICS is published annually by NISRA • WSA carries out standard internal quality assurance checks on this data which may result in the information requested being subject to ongoing change in the run-up to publication. It is in the public interest that the quality assurance process is concluded before making this information available to the public to ensure accuracy and consistency of messaging and thereby confidence in what we report. • As the information requested is of notable interest to the wider public, it is important that it can be accessed by all interested parties at the same time in an accurate form. This is in line with the Official Statistics Code of Practice which states: ‘Statistics and data should be equally available to all, not given to some people before others. They should be published at a sufficient level of detail and remain publicly available.’

In balancing where the public interest lies, my view is that the public interest considerations against disclosure are predominant and the public interest would be better served by non-disclosure of the information at this time.

Signed: Teresa Hewitt **Date: 15/04/2026**