ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0126

Request

Could you please confirm the cost of AI use in the NI Civil Service? Break it down by services e.g. copilot vs other please. Whether this is additional licenses or stand alone cost.

Clarification received 10 March 2026:
By financial year going back the last three years, and the part of this financial year. Up to the £600 limit.

DoF response

I confirm that the Department holds some of the information requested. Information is held for the Department of Finance. Information relating to other Northern Ireland Executive departments is held by each individual relevant department.

The cost of AI use during the past 3 financial years by the Department of Finance is as follows:

AI Tool	**Period to 31 January 2026**	**2024-25**	**2023-24**	**2022-23**	**Total**
Microsoft 365 Copilot	245,623	82,070	-	-	**327,693**
ChatGPT	4,548	2,267	-	-	**6,725**
Total	**250,171**	**84,337**	**-**	**-**	**334,418**

Expenditure to 31 March 2025 is audited and expenditure from 1 April 2025 to 31 January 2026 is unaudited. The figures reflect the accrued expenditure for the Department of Finance as recorded in its Financial System General Ledger.

The breakdown of additional licences and standalone cost is not held by the Department.