

Request**RE: IRC306699 General Service Grade 6 competition**

Please provide a full anonymised Section 75 equality breakdown, by percentage, for each of the following groups:

1. Total number of current substantive general service Grade 6 staff across NICS;
2. Total number of current substantive general service Grade 7 staff across NICS;
3. All candidates who passed the IRC306699 General Service Grade 6 competition.

For those who passed the IRC306699 competition, please present the data separately for:

- Candidates who had been posted or appointed as at 31 May 2026; and
- Candidates remaining on the merit list who had not been posted or appointed by that date.

For each of the groups listed above, please provide the Section 75 breakdown by:

- religious belief;
- political opinion;
- racial group;
- age;
- marital status;
- sexual orientation;
- sex (men and women)
- disability status;
- persons with dependents.

DoF response

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

1. At 1 January 2026, the number of current substantive general service Grade 6 staff across NICS was 130.

2. At 1 January 2026, the number of current substantive general service Grade 7 staff across NICS was 959.

DoF does not hold data on Political opinion or Racial group, however Ethnic group has been provided. Additionally, there is a high proportion of missing data relating to sexual orientation and dependents and the figures provided may not be representative of the whole staff profile.

Please note some personal information has been withheld because it is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40(2) exempts personal information disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act.

Having considered all the information contained within the Legitimate Interest Test, also known as Lawful, Fairness and Transparency Test (attached at **Annex C**), the Department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of third-party personal data falling within the scope of the request of which the requestor is nor the data subject. Making an unrestricted disclosure of personal data for private interests could constitute a disproportionate and unwarranted level of interference with the individuals' rights and freedoms – particularly their right to privacy and family life under the Human Rights Act 1998.

Table 1: Section 75 breakdown of Substantive General Service Grade 6 & 7 staff across NICS, by percentage.

Section 75 Category	Description	Grade 6 Percentage (%)	Grade 7 Percentage (%)
Community Background	Protestant	35.4	48.9
	Catholic	59.2	45.9
	Not Determined	5.4	5.2
Age Group	16-24	0.0	0.0
	25-34	0.0	1.3
	35-44	19.2	23.6
	45-54	41.5	43.6
	55-64	37.7	30.0
	65+	1.5	1.6
Ethnic Group¹	White	100.0	99.2
	Chinese/Indian/Other	0.0	0.8
Marital Status²	Single	#	20.7
	Married/Civil Partnership	82.5	73.2
	Separated/Divorced/Widowed	*	6.2
Sexual Orientation³	Same Sex	0.0	5.2
	Different Sex	100.0	93.0
	Both Sexes	0.0	1.9
Sex	Male	44.6	46.2
	Female	55.4	53.8
Declared Disability⁴	No Disability Declared	95.4	95.1
	Declared Disability	4.6	4.9
Dependents⁵	No	44.4	47.1
	Yes	55.6	52.9

Notes:

Source: HR Connect as at 1 January 2026

* Number of cases too small to publish (i.e. below 5)

Number has been suppressed, to avoid disclosing another number that is too small to publish

% Calculations exclude missing staff

Totals may not round to 100% due to rounding

¹Ethnic Group is missing for 9 Grade 6 staff and 71 Grade 7 staff

²Marital status is Missing/Unknown for 16 Grade 6 staff and 49 Grade 7 staff

³Sexual Orientation is Missing for 96 Grade 6 staff and 689 Grade 7 staff

⁴Employees whose disability information is missing in the NICS are allocated to the 'No disability declared' category and included in the calculations

⁵Dependents is Missing for 94 Grade 6 staff and 662 Grade 7 staff

3. As this competition was run as an internal trawl, this information is not held.

ANNEX B - INTERNAL REVIEWS

An Internal Review request examines the response based on applied exemptions, search adequacy, or response timeliness.

It is not the following, which will be treated as specified:

- Questions asking for clarification on information provided: Will be treated as part of the original FOI request.
- Additional questions about the information in the response: Will be treated as a new FOI request.
- Questions about the subject not related to the original request: Will be treated as new FOI request.
- Questions regarding how a service operates or why a decision was made: Will be treated as normal business and responded to accordingly.
- Complaints or concerns raised in response to information provided: Will be treated in line with relevant complaints procedure.

To make an Internal Review request:

- **Clearly state:** That you want an internal review of a previous FOI response and provide the necessary details.
- **Follow the timeline:** Be sure to submit your request within 40 working days of receiving the original response. If the Department has not responded at all, you have 40 working days after the original 20-day response period has passed.
- **Wait for a response:** The review is typically completed within 20 working days but can take up to 40 working days in exceptional circumstances. The Department should inform you of any delays.

What the review includes

- A fresh decision based on a reconsideration of all relevant factors.
- An assessment of whether the request was handled correctly and if exemptions were applied appropriately.
- The review will be conducted by someone who was not involved in the original decision.

If you wish to request an internal review, please email foi@finance-ni.gov.uk or write to FOI/EIR Team, Department of Finance, 2nd Floor, Craigantlet Buildings, Stoney Road, Belfast, BT4 3SX.