

**Request**

Please provide the following information for the Northern Ireland Civil Service for the financial year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026:

1. The total number of staff employed by the Northern Ireland Civil Service as at 1 April 2025.
2. The total number of staff employed by the Northern Ireland Civil Service as at 31 March 2026.
3. The number of staff who retired on official ill health retirement grounds during the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

For point 3, I am asking specifically for cases where the retirement was formally recorded as ill health retirement, rather than ordinary retirement, resignation, dismissal, medical redeployment, or other forms of leaving employment.

**DoF response**

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

The figures below are taken from the HR & Payroll system at the time period specified and refer to permanent and temporary / fixed term NICS staff.

1. As at 1 April 2025, the number of staff employed by the Northern Ireland Civil Service was 24,298.
2. As at 31 March 2026, the number of staff employed by the Northern Ireland Civil Service was 24,643.
3. Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, a total of 81 NICS staff are recorded as having retired on ill health grounds.

## 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](mailto:foi@finance-ni.gov.uk) or write to FOI/EIR Team, Department of Finance, 2nd Floor, Craigantlet Buildings, Stoney Road, Belfast, BT4 3SX.**