

FOI DOF/2026-0391

Request

Following on from DOF/2026-0339

I would like to make a new FOI request related to the data provided in this one. Could you please provide:

- The percentage of prison officer staff employed in NI prisons took at least one day of sickness absence where the reason stated was poor mental health and the total number of working days lost due to sickness absence attributed to poor mental health among prison officer staff in the years 2018/19, 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- If available within the cost limit, please provide the same data for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

DoF response

I can confirm the Department holds the information requested and is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Percentage of NI Prison Officer staff with at least one sickness absence due to poor mental health, and total working days lost from such absences

	% of Staff	Total Working Days Lost
2018/19	13.2	9,914
2019/20	13.2	11,840
2020/21	12.6	9,689
2021/22	15.8	14,471
2022/23	15.8	12,658

Source: NISRA Accredited Official Statistics
Includes data relating to staff in all NIPS locations

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.