

FOI DOF/2026-0288

Request

I would like to make a freedom of information request in relation to the number of:

1. Grade 7 posts currently filled by Temporary Promotions within the Department for Infrastructure.
2. Grade 7 posts formally declared as Vacant by the Department for Infrastructure.

The information provided should be the position as of today's date (2nd June 2026).

DoF response

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

1. The Department of Finance (DoF) does not maintain a central record of Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) staff establishment figures. Instead, each NICS Department is individually responsible for determining and managing its own staffing and financial resources. This includes identifying the total number of posts required to meet its operational needs. However, DOF does hold centrally the number of NICS staff on temporary promotion.

As at the end of May 2026 (the most recent data available at the time of request), the number of NICS staff on a temporary promotion arrangement within DfI to Grade 7, is 33. (13 x General Service; 20 x Non-General Service.)

The management and recording of temporary promotions are the responsibility of individual business areas in Departments and can be for several different business reasons, such as covering vacant posts, special exercises etc.

2. Details of the total vacancies in each department is not held centrally by Department of Finance. Each Civil Service department is responsible for managing its resources – both financial and staff. Each department determines its individual workforce needs and is responsible for ensuring that any additional staffing resources are affordable. When a department identifies a vacancy that needs filled, the request is referred to NICSHR to initiate the process to fill the post. NICSHR liaises with all departments on an ongoing basis to seek to prioritise recruitment activity within allocated financial and staff resources.

As at the end of May 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 1 General Service Grade 7 vacancy and 20 Non-General Service Grade 7 vacancies in the Department for Infrastructure.