

FOI DOF/2026-0327

Request**RE: AO Vacancies**

Please provide the most recent figures on the number of Administrative Officer (AO) vacancies in the Greater Belfast Area by Department.

DoF response

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

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 NICS HR to initiate the process to fill the post. NICS HR 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), NICS HR was managing a caseload of 1089 general service AO vacancies based in the Greater Belfast Area and 25 non-general service AO vacancies based in the Greater Belfast Area. Towns which are considered to be within the Greater Belfast Area are – Belfast, Lisburn, Bangor, Antrim, Downpatrick, Carrickfergus, Ballynahinch, Newtownabbey, Larne and Newtownards. The breakdown by Department is shown in the tables below.

General Service AO vacancies in Greater Belfast Area

Department	Number of vacancies
DAERA	33
DE	4
DfC	887
DfE	10
DfI	10
DoF	59
DoJ	76
PPS	4
TEO	6
Grand Total	1089

Non-General Service AO vacancies in Greater Belfast Area

Department	Number of vacancies
DfE	1
DfI	15
DoJ	9
Grand Total	25