

FOI DOF/2026-0414

Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the most recently implemented employee pay award within your organisation.

Please provide the following information:

- 1) The percentage pay increase that was implemented for employees under the latest pay award.
- 2) If different percentage increases were applied to different grades, pay bands, or employee groups, please provide the percentage increase applicable to each.
- 3) The date on which the pay award was formally implemented.
- 4) If the pay award was backdated, please provide:
The effective date from which the pay increase was backdated.
The date on which the backdated payment was made to employees.

If any of the requested information is already publicly available, I would be grateful if you could provide a link or direct me to the relevant publication

DoF response

The information you have requested is exempt under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption, and the Department is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

Full details of the latest Civil Service pay award can be found using the following link:

[2024/25 Pay Award | Department of Finance](#)

Please note that the information you have requested may be contained across a number of documents and publications available via the above webpage, rather than within a single document. You may therefore need to review the documents linked from that page to obtain all of the information sought.

The pay award was paid to weekly paid employees on 21 August and monthly paid employees on 25 September.

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.