

FOI DOF/2026-0421

Request

In relation to DOF/2026-0339 and: DOF/2026-0391, I'd like to ask - what was the total number of 'prison officer staff' across all NIPS locations in 2018/19, 2019/20, 2022/23 and 2025/6?

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (Information Accessible by Other Means) applies, as the requested information is publicly available.

The figures for 1 April 2018 and 1 April 2019 are published in Appendix 5, Table 4 of the [Personnel Statistics for the Northern Ireland Civil Service](#) reports for those respective years.

The figure for 1 April 2022 is published in Appendix 4, Table 4 of the [Personnel Statistics for the Northern Ireland Civil Service](#) report.

The figure for 1 April 2025 is available in Tab 3a of the [Employment in the Northern Ireland Civil Service](#) report.

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.