

FOI DOF/2026-0428

Request

If you could provide the following information in relation to the Northern Ireland Civil Service and its individual departments for which you hold this information:

- 1.The total number of staff who are currently in receipt of Shift Distribution Allowance.
- 2.If possible, a breakdown of this figure by department and /or agency.
- 3.If available, a breakdown by staff grade.

DoF response

I can confirm the Department holds the information requested and is presented in Tables 1 and 2 below. Although the request referred to Shift Distribution Allowance, the response below refers to Shift Disturbance Allowance as there is no Shift Distribution Allowance in the Civil Service.

Please note some personal information has been withheld because it is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40(2) exempts personal information disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act.

Having considered all the information contained within the Legitimate Interest Test, also known as Lawful, Fairness and Transparency Test, (attached at **Annex C**), the Department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of third-party personal data falling within the scope of the request of which the requestor is nor the data subject. Making an unrestricted disclosure of personal data for private interests could constitute a disproportionate and unwarranted level of interference with the individuals' rights and freedoms – particularly their right to privacy and family life under the Human Rights Act 1998.

The total number of staff in receipt of Shift Disturbance Allowance in June 2026 was 226.

Table 1: The total number of staff currently in receipt of Shift Disturbance Allowance, broken down by Department

Department	No. of Staff
DAERA	139
DfC	5
DfI	28
DoF	10
DoH	2
DoJ	42
Total	226

Table 2: The number of staff currently in receipt of Shift Disturbance Allowance broken down by staff grade

Grade	No. of Staff
Administrative Assistant	*
Administrative Officer	25
Agricultural Inspector Grade III	*
Executive Officer I	*
Executive Officer II	*
Higher TG - Assistant Warden	6
HPTO (Civil Engineer Assistant)	*
Industrial 1	*
Industrial 2	28
Inspector Group 1	46
Inspector Group 2	9
Inspector Group 4	7
Meat Inspector	*
Poultry Meat Inspector	*
PTO (Civil Eng Assistant)	7
PTO Warden	6
SGB2 Security Guard	*
SGB2 Watchperson/Cleaner	5
Staff Officer	*
Strangford Ferry Purser	*
Strangford Ferry Senior Purser	6
Strangford Ferry Shift Manager	*
Strangford Ferry Skipper	*
Support Grade Band 2	*
Typist	*
Veterinary Officer	*
Veterinary Officers	*
YJA Care Worker EO11	22
YJA Retained Care Worker EO1	8
YJA Retained Care Worker EO11	*
YJA Retained Team Leader EO1	5
YJA Social Worker EO1	*
Total	226

Notes:

Analysis is based on NICS data held on HR Connect from June 2026

* Number of cases is too small to publish due to the risk of identifying individuals (e.g. fewer than five members of staff)

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.