

Request

- 1.The total number of Deputy Principal posts within the Working Health Group.
- 2.The total number of Deputy Principal posts within the Operational Delivery Group.
- 3.The number of individuals who are currently temporarily promoted (TP) into Deputy Principal posts within:

Working Health Group; and
Operational Delivery Group.
- 4.The total number of applications (bids) submitted for the IRC320459 Operations Deputy Principal Department for Communities trawl.
- 5.The total number of applications (bids) withdrawn from the IRC320459 Operations Deputy Principal Department for Communities trawl.

DoF response

I can confirm the Department holds some of the information,

- 1 & 2. 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 maintain central data concerning the number of NICS permanent (including Fixed Term) staff currently in post.

Table 1 below provides the total number of substantive General Service Deputy Principal (DP) Grade staff in DfC, Working Health Group and Operational Delivery Group, as at the end of July 2026 (the most recent data available at the time of the request).

DfC Business Organisation	General Service Deputy Principal (DP) Grade (Headcount)
DfC, Operational Delivery Group	26
DfC, Work and Health Group	54
Grand Total	80

Source: HR Connect at Month End July 2026

3. Responsibility for the management and recording of temporary promotions lies with individual business areas within Departments. Temporary promotions may be implemented for a variety of operational reasons, including the need to cover vacant posts, support special projects or other business requirements.

Table 2 below provides the total number of staff Temporarily Promoted to General Service DP Grade within DfC, Working Health Group and Operational Delivery Group, as at the end of July 2026 (the most recent data available at the time of the request).

DfC Business Organisation	Temporary Promotion to General Service Deputy Principal (DP) Grade (Headcount)
DfC, Operational Delivery Group	34
DfC, Work and Health Group	34
Grand Total	68

Source: HR Connect at Month End July 2026

- 4 & 5 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 July 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICSHR had received 40 requests in total to be filled from competition IRC320459 of which 2 were subsequently withdrawn.

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.