

FOI DOF/2026-0464

Request**RE: Vacant General Service Executive Officer II (EO2)**

Please provide the number of vacant General Service Executive Officer II (EO2) posts within the NICS, broken down by:

- Department; and
- Location, specifically identifying posts based in:
 - Belfast; and
 - Ballymena.

And how many have been offered posts and how many have accepted/refused so far?

I would be grateful if the information could be provided in a format similar to the following:

Department	Belfast EO2 Vacancies	Ballymena EO2 Vacancies
Department A	X	Y
Department B	X	Y

In addition, for each Department, please provide:

- The total number of vacant EO2 posts;
- The number of vacant EO2 posts that are currently being filled through ongoing recruitment processes; and
- The date on which the vacancy figures were recorded.

If the requested information is not held in this exact format, please provide the closest equivalent information available and explain any limitations associated with the data.

Clarification received on 19/08/2026: Vacant EO2 general service posts which are to be filled from competition IRC317873

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 July 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 317 vacancies which may be filled from Competition IRC317873 specifically in Belfast and Ballymena.

The breakdown of the vacancies is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Department	Ballymena	Belfast	Grand Total
DAERA		16	16
DfC	5	179	184
DfE		16	16
DfI		21	21
DoF		22	22
DoH		9	9
DoJ		33	33
PPS		9	9
TEO		7	7
Grand Total	5	312	317

As at the end of July 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICSHR was managing a total caseload of 515 vacancies which may be filled from Competition IRC317873 (this includes the 317 in Belfast and Ballymena).

The breakdown by Department of the total caseload of vacancies which may be filled from Competition IRC317873 is set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Department	Grand Total
DAERA	47
DE	6
DfC	331
DfE	16
DfI	27
DoF	27
DoH	9
DoJ	36
PPS	9
TEO	7
Grand Total	515

Information about the number of candidates who have been offered posts and how many have accepted/refused so far, is not held as NICSHR are currently in the process of carrying out a round of allocations from Competition IRC317873. This is a volume competition with candidates matched to vacant posts and offer letters issuing in three batches. On the date of request, 12th August 2026, the offer process was still ongoing.