

FOI DOF/2026-0491

Request

I wish to request to following information.

1. Total number of vacancies from grade AA to Grade 7.
2. A breakdown of these by area and Department.

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds some of the information requested.

1. 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), NICS HR was managing a caseload of 4119 vacancies at AA-Grade 7 and analogous grades.

2. The breakdown of the 4119 vacancies by town and Department is shown in the tables below.

AA Vacancies by town and Department

Town	DAERA	DfC	DfE	DfI	DoF	DoJ	PPS	TEO	Grand Total
Antrim				1					1
Ballykelly	1								1
Ballymena	1	1		2					4
Ballymoney		2							2
Ballynahinch		1							1
Banbridge		1							1
Bangor		1				3			4
Belfast	27	7	9	11	17	3	5	1	80
Carrickfergus						2			2
Coleraine				4					4
Cookstown	1			7					8

Town	DAERA	DfC	DfE	DfI	DoF	DoJ	PPS	TEO	Grand Total
Craigavon				3					3
Derry-Londonderry		1							1
Downpatrick	1								1
Dungannon		1							1
Enniskillen	2								2
Kilkeel		1							1
Lisburn	13	1		1					15
Newry		5							5
Newtownabbey		1							1
Omagh		1		3					4
Portrush	1								1
Grand Total	47	24	9	32	17	8	5	1	143

AO vacancies by town & Department

Town	DAERA	DE	DfC	DfE	DfI	DoF	DoH	DoJ	PPS	TEO	Grand Total
Antrim	6		6		1			2			15
Armagh	3		4		1			4		1	13
Ballykelly	5		75								80
Ballymena	5		18		6	4		1			34
Ballymoney					3						3
Ballynahinch			1								1
Bangor		3									3
Belfast	5		921	3	20	38	1	63	6	4	1061
Carrickfergus								8			8
Coleraine	2				19						21
Cookstown	2				9						11
Craigavon					11	1					12
Derry-Londonderry	3	3	86		6	7		4	5		114
Downpatrick					5			5			10
Dungannon	1				2			1			4
Enniskillen	3				2						5
Kilkeel			1								1
Larne	8										8
Lisburn	3		5		4			11			23
Lurgan			1								1
Newry			4		4			3			11
Newtownabbey	2				1						3
Newtownards	3				4			3			10
Omagh	1				9	1		1			12
Portadown					8						8
Seaforde					3						3
Strabane	1				2						3
Strangford					1						1
Grand Total	53	6	1122	3	121	51	1	106	11	5	1479

EO2 vacancies by town & Department

Town	DAERA	DE	DfC	DfE	DfI	DoF	DoH	DoJ	PPS	TEO	Grand Total
Antrim	3		12								15
Armagh	5		5		2						12
Ballinamallard					2						2
Ballykelly	7		4								11
Ballymena			5		5						10
Ballymoney			1								1
Ballynahinch			3								3
Banbridge			13								13
Bangor		10	5					6			21
Belfast	32		186	19	57	33	9	34	10	9	389
Carrickfergus			3								3
Coleraine	1		4		3						8
Cookstown	2		3		4						9
Craigavon					4						4
Derry-Londonderry	6		17		2	4			1		30
Downpatrick			2		4						6
Dungannon	3		7								10
Enniskillen	1		2		4						7
Greyabbey			1								1
Irvinestown			1								1
Kilkeel			2								2
Larne	9		3		2						14
Lisburn	7		13		5	1		3			29
Lurgan			2								2
Moira			4								4
Newcastle			3								3
Newry	6		27					1			34
Newtownabbey	2		2		4						8
Newtownards	3		6		4						13
Omagh	4		2		2						8
Portadown			3								3
Strabane	1		3								4
Strangford					1						1
Grand Total	92	10	344	19	105	38	9	44	11	9	681

EO1 Vacancies by town & Department

Town	DAERA	DE	DfC	DfE	DfI	DoF	DoH	DoJ	PPS	TEO	Grand Total
Antrim	12				1						13
Armagh	2		1								3
Ballinamallard	1										1
Ballykelly	13		1								14
Ballymena	2		1		4						7
Banbridge								1			1
Bangor		4	2	1		2		3			12

Town	DAERA	DE	DfC	DfI	DoF	DoH	DoJ	PPS	TEO	Grand Total
Lisburn	3			1						4
Newry	4									4
Newtownabbey	3									3
Newtownards	1									1
Omagh	2			1						3
Richhill	1									1
Strabane	1									1
Grand Total	66	1	5	13	28	4	3	2	6	128