

FOI DOF/2026-0450

Request

You requested the following information on 10 August 2026.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following for every calendar year from 1950 to the most recent available:

1. Number of live births by age of mother in these groups: under 20, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49.
2. Split by mother's country of birth: UK-born vs foreign-born (non-UK).
3. The corresponding mid-year (or equivalent) female population estimates for the same age groups and UK-born / foreign-born split.

If the UK-born / foreign-born split for mothers or for the female population is not available for the full period back to 1950, provide the combined (all mothers / all women) figures for those earlier years and state from which year the split becomes available.

DoF response

Response to Questions 1 and 2

I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by the Department.

However, some of the information is exempt under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and the Department is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) produce statistics on the number of live births by age and country of birth of the mother. This is based on information recorded on birth certificates and collected by the General Register Office (GRO) during the birth registration process.

1. Section 21 exemption applied as information on live birth count is publicly available for all the years requested and is reported in [Table 3.1 of the Annual Registrar General Report](#). Information on live birth count by mothers age is available from 1974. This information is reported from 1974 by single year of age in [Table 3.3 of the Annual Registrar General Report](#).

2. Information on the mother's country of birth is available from 1997. An excel file is attached providing the number of live births by specified age band of mother, split by the mother's country of birth: UK-born vs foreign-born (non-UK). Due to the data constraints outlined above this file covers the period 1997 to 2024, with 2024 being the latest full year available.

Response to Question 3

I can confirm that some of the information you have requested is held by the Department.

NISRA also produces annual Mid-Year Population Estimates (as at 30 June each year) and collects population information through the Census of Population and Housing in Northern Ireland, which is conducted every ten years.

While most of the information relevant to Question 3 is available publicly, the relevant data has been compiled into the attached Excel workbook to assist you. The workbook includes data from both the annual Mid-Year Population Estimates and Census results.

The workbook contains five worksheets: a cover sheet and four data worksheets, described below.

- **MYE-Population 1971-2024 (Age):** Mid-Year population estimates of the total number of females by age from 1971 to 2024.
- **Census 1951-1971 (CoB):** The total number of females by country of birth in the 1951, 1961 and 1971 censuses.
- **Census 1951-1971 (Age):** The total number of females by age in the 1951, 1961 and 1971 censuses.
- **Census 1981-2021 (CoB by Age):** The total number of females by country of birth and age in the 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 censuses.

Notes:

1. Mid-Year estimates by sex and age are not available prior to 1971, and none are available by country of birth.
2. Census information from 1951 to 1971 is limited to published reports and tables. While age and country of birth information is available separately, the published reports do not include the requested breakdowns by age and country of birth together.
3. The reference dates of each census are different from the population estimates – information is provided on these dates in the cover sheet of the attached workbook.
4. Sources for each data table are provided in the workbook.