

FOI DOF/2023-0251

Request

Under the freedom of information act can be provided with the following;

1. Average of bonus payments to Senior Civil Servants for 2022/23
2. Average pay increase awarded to Senior Civil Servants for 2022/23.
3. How many staff were there in 2021/22
4. How many staff were there in 2022/23
5. How many of these are on over £100k p/a

DoF Response

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

1. The Special Bonus Scheme closed at the end of March 2021 and, formerly, when it was in place, it did not apply to Senior Civil Servants.
2. Figures for the average pay increase for SCS staff for financial year ended 31 March 2023 are not held.
3. & 4

For questions 3 & 4, the information you have requested is held by the Department but 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 information for 2021/22 can be found at appendix 4 in the following link: [Personnel Statistics for the Northern Ireland Civil Service 2022](#)

The information for 2022/23 can be found at appendix 4 in the following link: [Personnel Statistics for the Northern Ireland Civil Service 2023](#)

5. Information for the number of staff earning over £100k in the last two financial years is as follows:

2021/22:

The information you have requested is held by the Department but 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. The information is published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in the following report at page 12, Table 1 [NICS Pay Statistics 2022](#).

(Data in this report is primarily sourced from HR Connect and the Northern Ireland Prison Service databases. HR Connect is the main HR System used by the Northern Ireland Civil Service).

2022/23:

FOI Exemption Section 22 intended for future publication applies to the 2022/23 data. The report referenced above is published annually, and updated figures for 2022/23 are expected to be published in October 2023, as stated on the HRCS publication schedule which can be accessed at [HRCS publication schedule](#). Once published the report will be available at the following link: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications>

By applying Section 22 Exemption of the FOI Act, we are required to carry out a Public Interest Test. This can be found attached as a separate document (Annex B).