

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details of:

1. The current vacancies by grade in the NICTS from AO to Grade 3
2. The number of staff who are currently temporarily promoted to each grade from EO2 to Grade 3
3. The number of staff currently on lists from the recent EO2/EO1/So/DP competitions (IRC265817 / IRC265807 / IRC275969).
4. The number of posts at each grade currently filled by agency staff.

Further clarification received 27 March 2023

The information requested is in relation to Northern Ireland Court & Tribunal Service only

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 it 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 February 2023 (figures held at time of request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 110 vacancies between AO and Grade 6 in the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS). The table below gives details for these grades.

Grade	General Service	Non-General Service (analogous)	Total
G6	1		1
DP	9		9
SO	5	7	12
EO1	13	2	15
EO2	13	1	14
AO	59		59
Total	100	10	110

The Senior Civil Service vacancy position in NICTS is as below:

Grade 5 - 0
Grade 3 - 1

2. The number of NICTS staff on temporary promotion to each grade from EO2 to Grade 3 at the end of February 2023 is set out in the table below:

TP Grade	General Service	Non General Service (analogous)	Total
Grade 3	1		1
Grade 5	2		2
Grade 6	5	2	7
Grade 7	9	1	10
Deputy Principal	17	1	18
Staff Officer	24		24
Executive Officer 1	49		49
Executive Officer 2	22		22
Total	129	4	133

Source; HRConnect

It should be noted that temporary promotions may be in place for a variety of reasons such as special exercises, to cover maternity leave and vacant posts etc.

3. The number of NICTS staff currently on lists from the recent EO2, EO1, SO and DP competitions (IRC265817 / IRC265807 / IRC275969 / IRC277837) is provided in the table below.

Competition	Number of NICTS staff on list
EO2 Competition (IRC265817)	8
EO1 Competition (IRC265807)	0
SO Competition (IRC275969)	9
DP Competition (IRC277837)	0

4. The data below shows the number of posts at each grade in NICTS currently filled by agency staff as at the end of February 2023.

Analogous Grade	Number of agency workers
Grade 3	0
Grade 5	0
Grade 6	0
Grade 7	5
Deputy Principal	4
Staff Officer	3
Executive Officer 1	1
Executive Officer 2	3
Administrative Officer	141
Administrative Assistant	0
Grand Total	157