

FOI DOF/2024-0052

Request

Could I request that the following information is published:

1. The number of Private Office staff within NICS that have been moved to alternative posts since May 2022, split by grade and department.
2. The number of vacant posts in Private Offices across NICS, split by grade and department.

DoF Response

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

1. Three members of Department of Finance Private Office staff at EO11 grade and two members of Private Office staff at Administrative Officers grade temporarily moved to alternative posts following the Finance Minister ceasing to hold office in October 2022. One member of Private Office staff at EO11 grade has permanently moved to an alternative post.

Please note, information regarding the number of Private Office staff within other departments that have been moved to alternative posts since May 2022, split by grade and department, is not held. You may wish to contact the following FOI teams for those departments separately at the following addresses:

DAERA Information manager: daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk

DfC FOI: foi@communities-ni.gov.uk

DfE FOI: foi@economy-ni.gov.uk

Freedom of Information (DE): Freedom.Info@education-ni.gov.uk

DfI Information Management Unit: DFIIMU@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

DoH FOI: FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

DOJ FOI Mailbox: FOI@justice-ni.gov.uk

TEO FOI: foi@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

2. Details of the total vacancies in each department are 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 NICSHR to initiate the process to fill the post.

As at the end of January 2024 (the most recent figures available at the time of the request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 21 vacancies in Private Offices across the NICS. The table below provides a breakdown of the vacancies by department and grade.

Grade	Department								Grand Total
	DAERA	DfC	DfE	DfI	DoF	DoH	DOJ	TEO	
G7								1	1
DP		1	1	1	1				4
SO						1			1
EO1	1						1	1	3
EO2	1			3	1			2	7
AO	3							2	5
Grand Total	5	1	1	4	2	1	1	6	21

To note these 21 vacancies have the word 'Private Office' in the name of the organisation