

**FOI DOF/2024-0386**

**Request**

The number of permanent Staff Officer vacancies across the whole of the NICS as of 1/9/24 - or as close to this date as the current information allows?

**DoF Response**

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

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 August 2024, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICS HR was managing a caseload of 561 permanent Staff Officer and analogous grade vacancies across the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS). Of these 561 vacancies, 262 were General Service Staff Officer vacancies.