

FOI DOF/2024-0268

Request

I understand that NICS Board has agreed to run a G7 and G6 competition commencing in November 2024. I would be grateful for the provision of the paper, or papers, presented that led to this decision being made.

I would also be grateful if you could supply me with the following for general administrative grade 6 posts only; ie not professional Grade 6s such as lawyers, accountants, vets, etc:

1. The number of Grade 6 (Senior Principal) in the Northern Ireland Civil Service, broken down by Department;
2. The number of people temporarily promoted into Grade 6 in the Northern Ireland Civil Service, broken down by Department;
3. Of these temporary promotions, how many have been filled by this person for more than 1 year; 2 years; 5 years; 10 years, broken down by Department;
4. The number of Grade 6 vacancies across the Northern Ireland Civil Service, broken down by Department.

DoF Response

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

As at 25 June 2024 there has been no final decision made in relation to progressing a G7 and G6 competition.

1. As at end of May 2024 (the most recent figures available at the time of request), there are **95** staff in post in General Service Grade 6¹. Please see table below for breakdown by Department:

Department	No. of Staff
DAERA	24
DE	5
DfC	10
DfE	4
DfI	8
DoF	20
DoH	8
DOJ	12
PPS	3
TEO	1
Grand Total	95

¹ full grade name Non| Senior Principal (G6)|001|052

2. As at end of May 2024 (the most recent figures available at the time of request), **81** NICS staff are on temporary promotion to General Service Grade 6². Please see table below for breakdown by Department:

Department	No. of Staff
DAERA	19
DE	5
DfC	14
DfE	7
DfI	6
DoF	9
DoH	6
DOJ	15
Grand Total	81

3. Of those 81 staff, 48 staff have been on temporary promotion for more than 1 year. As requested, a breakdown by duration of temporary promotions and Department is provided in the table below:

Department	TP Duration (at Month End May 2024)				Total
	> 1 year	> 2 years	> 5 years	> 10 years	
DAERA	7	3	0	0	10
DE	1	2	0	0	3
DfC	3	4	0	0	7
DfE	1	4	0	0	5
DfI	1	3	0	0	4
DoF	5	0	0	0	5
DoH	3	1	0	0	4
DOJ	4	3	3	0	10
Grand Total	25	20	3	0	48

4. 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 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 May 2024, NICS HR was managing a caseload of 19 General Service Grade 6 vacancies. The table below provides the breakdown by Department of those vacancies.

² full grade name Non| Senior Principal (G6)|001|052

Department	Number of General Service Grade 6 vacancies
DAERA	7
DE	1
DfC	3
DfI	3
DoF	5
Grand Total	19