

FOI DOF/2023-0108

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 NICTS staff who are currently temporarily promoted to each grade from EO2 to Grade 3
3. The number of NICTS staff currently on lists from the recent EO2/EO1/So/DP competitions (IRC265817 / IRC265807 / IRC275969)
4. The expiration date for each of the competitions mentioned above @ 3
5. The number of agency staff who are currently filling vacancies in each grade from EO2 to Grade 3 in NICTS

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 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 February 2023 (figures held at time of request), NICS HR 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	0	1
DP	9	0	9
SO	5	7	12
EO1	13	2	15
EO2	13	1	14
AO	59	0	59
Total	100	10	110

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

Grade 5 - 0
Grade 3 - 1

- 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	0	1
Grade 5	2	0	2
Grade 6	5	2	7
Grade 7	9	1	10
Deputy Principal	17	1	18
Staff Officer	24	0	24
Executive Officer 1	49	0	49
Executive Officer 2	22	0	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.

- 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

- Appointments will not be made from competition DP IRC277837 after 14 November 2024, from competition SO IRC275969 after 19 August 2024, from competition EO1 IRC265807 after 26 August 2023, from competition EO2

IRC265817 after 10 August 2023, unless there are cogent practical reasons for extending the lifetime of these competitions.

5. The data below shows the number of agency staff who are currently filling vacancies in each grade from EO2 to Grade 3 in NICTS.

Analogous Grade	Number of 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
Grand Total	16