# **Employment in the Northern Ireland Civil Service** - Quarterly Report 1st July 2023



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#### Introduction

This report provides details on staff numbers in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) at 1 July 2023, and comparisons with the previous quarter and the wider public sector. A comparison with the previous year is also presented. This report is provided as a resource to users requiring data on NICS staff numbers and is published on a quarterly basis.

# Key Points<sup>1</sup>

- The headcount number of staff in the NICS at 1 July 2023 was 24,191 of whom 24,082 were permanent staff and 109 were temporary/casual staff. The number of full-time equivalent staff in the NICS was 22,582.
- The headcount number of staff in the NICS represents a decrease of 216 (0.9%) from the position at 1 April 2023. Full-time equivalent numbers decreased by 236 (1.0%) over the same period.
- The latest available quarterly figures (January 2023 April 2023) show the staff headcount increased by 5180 (1.0%) in the Home Civil Service, 120 (0.4%) in the Scottish Government and 30 (0.5%) in the Welsh Government. In the Northern Ireland Public Sector, the staff headcount increased by 996 (0.4%).
- Over the twelve months to 1 July 2023 staff headcount in the NICS increased by 50 (0.2%). The latest 12 month rolling figures show there were increases of 8270 (1.6%) in the Home Civil Service, 880 (3.3%) in the Scottish Government and 80 (1.3%) in the Welsh Government. An increase of 3,746 (1.6%) was seen in the Northern Ireland Public Sector numbers.
- Recruitment Agency staff numbers<sup>1</sup> are not included in these NICS figures. At the end of June 2023, the number of Agency staff working in the NICS was 3,220. This figure includes 1,204 Agency staff working in the NICS on contracts for the Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain.

<sup>1</sup>Agency staff figures were provided by NICS Workforce Strategy, Data and Analytics Branch on 1 July 2023 and provide the number (headcount) of NICS Agency Workers in post at a point in time. NICS Workforce Strategy, Data and Analytics Branch records do not include Agency Workers recruited directly by Departments.

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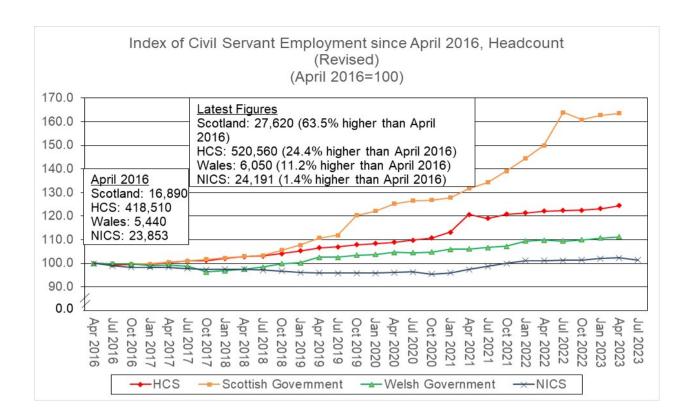
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Commentary: The chart shows that NICS staff numbers have been rising since October 2020 and are now 1.4% higher than in April 2016. The latest available figures for Great Britain, Wales and Scotland relate to December 2022. For Wales, staff numbers fell to a low in October 2017, before gradually increasing to their current level, which is 11.2% higher than the position in April 2016. For Scotland, staff numbers have been increasing since April 2016 however staff numbers decreased in the Quarter July - October 2022 before starting to rise again in the most recent quarter. Scotland's staff numbers are currently 63.5% higher than in April 2016. For Great Britain as a whole, staff numbers have increased gradually and are currently 24.4% higher than in April 2016.

# **Employees by Department, Headcount**

Table 1(a)
All Employees, Headcount

Department	Male 1 Apr 2023	Female 1 Apr 2023	Total 1 Apr 2023	Male 1 Jul 2023	Female 1 Jul 2023	Total 1 Jul 2023	Change on last Quarter Value	Change on last Quarter - %	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> - %
DAERA	1,888	1,653	3,541	1,872	1,647	3,519	-22	-0.6%	160	4.8%
DfC	3,195	4,294	7,489	3,155	4,251	7,406	-83	-1.1%	-100	-1.3%
DfE	573	731	1,304	565	726	1,291	-13	-1.0%	35	2.8%
DE	221	339	560	220	336	556	-4	-0.7%	6	1.1%
DoF	1,770	1,782	3,552	1,741	1,768	3,509	-43	-1.2%	-102	-2.8%
DoH	278	363	641	277	361	638	-3	-0.5%	39	6.5%
Dfl	2,212	757	2,969	2,182	753	2,935	-34	-1.1%	-68	-2.3%
DoJ	1,627	1,734	3,361	1,622	1,723	3,345	-16	-0.5%	22	0.7%
TEO	174	249	423	173	252	425	2	0.5%	75	21.4%
PPS	151	290	441	152	288	440	-1	-0.2%	-11	-2.4%
Other <sup>2</sup>	60	66	126	60	67	127	1	0.8%	-6	-4.5%
Total	12,149	12,258	24,407	12,019	12,172	24,191	-216	-0.9%	50	0.2%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As at 1 July 2022.

Table 1 (b)
Permanent Employees, Headcount

Department	Male 1 Apr 2023	Female 1 Apr 2023	Total 1 Apr 2023	Male 1 Jul 2023	Female 1 Jul 2023	Total 1 Jul 2023	Change on last Quarter Value	Change on last Quarter - %	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> - %
DAERA	1,861	1,622	3,483	1,846	1,617	3,463	-20	-0.6%	142	4.3%
DfC	3,193	4,292	7,485	3,153	4,249	7,402	-83	-1.1%	-87	-1.2%
DfE	568	729	1,297	561	724	1,285	-12	-0.9%	52	4.2%
DE	221	338	559	220	335	555	-4	-0.7%	11	2.0%
DoF	1,759	1,773	3,532	1,730	1,760	3,490	-42	-1.2%	-90	-2.5%
DoH	278	363	641	277	361	638	-3	-0.5%	40	6.7%
DfI	2,203	756	2,959	2,173	752	2,925	-34	-1.1%	-62	-2.1%
DoJ	1,626	1,730	3,356	1,622	1,718	3,340	-16	-0.5%	26	0.8%
TEO	172	248	420	171	251	422	2	0.5%	74	21.3%
PPS	150	289	439	150	285	435	-4	-0.9%	-13	-2.9%
Other <sup>2</sup>	60	66	126	60	67	127	1	0.8%	-6	-4.5%
Total	12,091	12,206	24,297	11,963	12,119	24,082	-215	-0.9%	87	0.4%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As at 1 July 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Figures include staff in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Figures include staff in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

Table 1 (c)
Temporary/Casual Employees, Headcount

Department	Total 1 Apr 2023	Total 1 Jul 2023	Change on last Quarter - Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> - Value
DAERA	58	56	-2	18
DfC	*	*	#	#
DfE	7	6	-1	-17
DE	*	*	#	#
DoF	20	19	-1	-12
DoH	0	0	0	-1
Dfl	10	10	0	-6
DoJ	5	5	0	-4
TEO	*	*	#	#
PPS	*	5	#	#
Other <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0
Total	110	109	-1	-37

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As at 1 July 2022.

**Commentary:** Table 1 shows that over the last quarter, NICS headcount has decreased by 216 (0.9%). There was a decrease of 215 (0.9%) permanent staff and a decrease of one Temporary/Casual staff. The largest decreases were in DfC (83), DoF (43), and Dfl (34). The only increases were in TEO (2) and Other (1). Table 1 also shows that NICS headcount figures are 50 (0.2%) greater than a year ago. The greatest increases were in DAERA (160) and TEO (75). The greatest decreases were in DoF (102) and DfC (100).

#### Notes:

Data sourced from HRConnect and additional DoJ databases.

In the table, abbreviations are used. The names of Departments and corresponding abbreviations are given in the Background Notes.

Staff on career breaks or on secondment outside the NICS are excluded. Due to small numbers, percentages are not presented in Table 1 (c).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Figures include staff in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

<sup>\*</sup> Number of cases too small to publish (i.e. below 5).

<sup>#</sup> Number has been suppressed, to avoid disclosing another number that is too small to publish.

Table 2(a)
All Employees, Full-time Equivalent (FTE)

Department	Male 1 Apr 2023	Female 1 Apr 2023	Total 1 Apr 2023	Male 1 Jul 2023	Female 1 Jul 2023	Total 1 Jul 2023	Change on last Quarter - Value	Change on last Quarter - %	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> %
DAERA	1,816	1,532	3,348	1,796	1,524	3,320	-28	-0.8%	140	4.4%
DfC	3,089	3,721	6,810	3,049	3,682	6,731	-79	-1.2%	-75	-1.1%
DfE	556	659	1,215	547	654	1,201	-15	-1.2%	34	2.9%
DE	216	314	531	215	310	525	-6	-1.0%	3	0.5%
DoF	1,708	1,609	3,316	1,678	1,595	3,273	-43	-1.3%	-101	-3.0%
DoH	267	339	606	267	335	602	-4	-0.6%	35	6.2%
Dfl	2,151	686	2,837	2,115	681	2,795	-42	-1.5%	-78	-2.7%
DoJ	1,600	1,619	3,219	1,594	1,606	3,199	-20	-0.6%	19	0.6%
TEO	169	234	404	168	237	405	1	0.3%	71	21.5%
PPS	147	267	413	148	265	412	-1	-0.2%	-10	-2.3%
Other <sup>2</sup>	56	61	118	56	62	119	1	0.6%	-6	-5.0%
Total	11,777	11,041	22,818	11,633	10,949	22,582	-236	-1.0%	32	0.1%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As at 1 July 2022.

Table 2(b)
Permanent Employees, Full-time Equivalent (FTE)

Department	Male 1 Apr 2023	Female 1 Apr 2023	Total 1 Apr 2023	Male 1 Jul 2023	Female 1 Jul 2023	Total 1 Jul 2023	Change on last Quarter - Value	Change on last Quarter - %	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> %
DAERA	1,789	1,501	3,290	1,770	1,494	3,264	-26	-0.8%	122	3.9%
DfC	3,087	3,719	6,806	3,047	3,680	6,727	-79	-1.2%	-62	-0.9%
DfE	551	657	1,208	543	652	1,195	-14	-1.1%	51	4.4%
DE	216	313	530	215	309	524	-6	-1.0%	8	1.5%
DoF	1,697	1,600	3,296	1,667	1,587	3,254	-42	-1.3%	-89	-2.7%
DoH	267	339	606	267	335	602	-4	-0.6%	36	6.4%
Dfl	2,142	685	2,827	2,106	680	2,785	-42	-1.5%	-72	-2.5%
DoJ	1,599	1,615	3,214	1,594	1,601	3,194	-20	-0.6%	23	0.7%
TEO	167	233	401	166	236	402	1	0.3%	70	21.3%
PPS	146	266	411	146	262	407	-4	-1.0%	-12	-2.8%
Other <sup>2</sup>	56	61	118	56	62	119	1	0.6%	-6	-5.0%
Total	11,719	10,989	22,708	11,577	10,896	22,473	-235	-1.0%	69	0.3%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As at 1 July 2022.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  Figures include staff in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Figures include staff in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

Table 2 (c)
Temporary/Casual Employees, Full-time Equivalent (FTE)

Department	Total 1 Apr 2023	Total 1 Jul 2023	Change on last Quarter - Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> - Value
DAERA	58	56	-2	18
DfC	*	*	#	#
DfE	7	6	-1	-17
DE	*	*	#	#
DoF	20	19	-1	-12
DoH	0	0	0	-1
DfI	10	10	0	-6
DoJ	5	5	0	-4
TEO	*	*	#	#
PPS	*	5	#	#
Other <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0
Total	110	109	-1	-37

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As at 1 July 2022.

**Commentary**: Table 2 shows that over the last quarter, NICS full-time equivalent (FTE) staff numbers have decreased by 236 (1.0%). There was a decrease of 235 (1.0%) permanent staff and a decrease of one Temporary/Casual staff. The largest decreases were in DfC (79), DoF (43) and DfI (42). The only increases were in TEO (1) and Other (1). Table 2 also shows that NICS FTE figures are 32 (0.1%) higher than a year ago, with the greatest increases of 140 in DAERA and 71 in TEO. The largest decreases were DoF (101) and DfI (78).

# Notes:

Data sourced from HRConnect and additional DoJ databases.

In the table, abbreviations are used. The names of Departments and corresponding abbreviations are given in the Background Notes.

Staff on career breaks or on secondment outside the NICS are excluded. Due to small numbers, percentages are not presented in Table 2 (c).

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Figures include staff in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

<sup>\*</sup> Number of cases too small to publish (i.e. below 5).

<sup>#</sup> Number has been suppressed, to avoid disclosing another number that is too small to publish.

Table 3(a)
Permanent Employees, Headcount, 1 Jul 2023

Department	G5+	G6/7	DP	SO	EOI/EOII	AO	AA	Industrial	Prison Grades	Total
DAERA	32	315	561	838	1,051	450	35	181	0	3,463
DfC	24	143	406	576	3,305	2,813	111	24	0	7,402
DfE	30	132	290	272	371	164	26	0	0	1,285
DE	21	94	107	80	139	99	15	0	0	555
DoF	47	421	662	627	951	728	47	7	0	3,490
DoH	31	118	154	156	120	49	10	0	0	638
DfI	19	146	304	388	725	825	68	450	0	2,925
DoJ	22	163	269	269	633	636	43	16	1,289	3,340
TEO	#	43	112	113	83	32	*	0	0	422
PPS <sub>1</sub>	8	74	101	15	85	128	24	0	0	435
Other <sup>1</sup>	#	23	41	12	31	12	*	0	0	127
Total	275	1,672	3,007	3,346	7,494	5,936	385	678	1,289	24,082

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Figures include staff in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

Table 3 (b)

Permanent Employees, Headcount, 1 Apr 2023

Department	G5+	G6/7	DP	so	EOI/EOII	АО	AA	Industrial	Prison Grades	Total
DAERA	31	313	571	841	1,057	449	37	184	0	3,483
DfC	26	144	409	579	3,334	2,852	116	25	0	7,485
DfE	27	138	291	274	371	169	27	0	0	1,297
DE	20	97	106	80	139	102	15	0	0	559
DoF	46	423	669	638	963	734	52	7	0	3,532
DoH	31	118	152	160	122	48	10	0	0	641
Dfl	20	145	308	389	736	825	67	469	0	2,959
DoJ	22	163	272	270	631	645	44	16	1,293	3,356
TEO	#	43	110	114	81	34	*	0	0	420
PPS	8	74	103	16	84	130	24	0	0	439
Other <sup>1</sup>	#	22	42	11	31	12	*	0	0	126
Total	271	1,680	3,033	3,372	7,549	6,000	398	701	1,293	24,297

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Figures include staff in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

**Commentary:** Table 3 provides a breakdown of permanent NICS headcount by grade level for the current and previous quarters. The greatest decrease in numbers is at AO (64), while the only increase in numbers is at G5+ (4).

#### Notes:

Data sourced from HRConnect and additional DoJ databases.

In the table, abbreviations are used. The names of Departments, analogous grade levels and corresponding abbreviations are given in the Background Notes.

Staff on career breaks or on secondment outside the NICS are excluded.

<sup>\*</sup> Number of cases too small to publish (i.e. below 5).

<sup>#</sup> Number has been suppressed, to avoid disclosing another number that is too small to publish

# **Employees by Work Pattern**

Table 4
Permanent Employees, Headcount, 1 Jul 2023

	1 Apr 2023 F/T	1 Apr 2023 P/T	1 Jul 2023 F/T	1 Jul 2023 P/T	Change on last Quarter F/T - Value		Change on last Quarter P/T - Value	Change on last Quarter P/T - %	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> F/T - Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> F/T - %	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> P/T - Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> P/T - %
Male	10,996	1,095	10,837	1,126	-159	-1.4%	31	2.8%	-49	-0.5%	54	5.0%
Female	8,166	4,040	8,081	4,038	-85	-1.0%	-2	0.0%	123	1.5%	-41	-1.0%
Total	19,162	5,135	18,918	5,164	-244	-1.3%	29	0.6%	74	0.4%	13	0.3%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As at 1 July 2022.

**Commentary:** Table 4 shows that over the last quarter, for both males and females, the number of full-time staff has decreased. There was an increase in part-time male staff and a slight decrease in part time female staff. Over the last year the number of full-time staff has decreased for males and increased for females. Male part-time staff have increased while female part-time numbers decreased.

#### Notes:

Data sourced from HRConnect and additional DoJ databases
In the table, abbreviations are used. F/T relates to full-time staff and P/T relates to part-time staff.
Staff on career breaks or on secondment outside the NICS are excluded.

# Comparisons with GB and with NI Public Sector

Table 5
Comparison with Great Britain, Headcount of Civil Servants

Organisation	1 Jan 2023 (Revised) Total	1 Apr 2023 Male	1 Apr 2023 Female	1 Apr 2023 Total	Change on last Quarter - Value	Change on last Quarter - %	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> - %
NICS	24,324	12,149	12,258	24,407	83	0.3%	281	1.2%
GB	515,380	236,260	284,300	520,560	5,180	1.0%	8,270	1.6%
Scottish Government	27,500	12,510	15,110	27,620	120	0.4%	880	3.3%
Welsh Government	6,020	2,440	3,620	6,050	30	0.5%	80	1.3%

Table 6

Comparison with Northern Ireland Public Sector, Headcount

	1 Jan 2023 (Revised) Total	1 Apr 2023 Male	1 Apr 2023 Female	1 Apr 2023 Total	Change on last Quarter - Value	Change on last Quarter - %	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> Value	Change on last Year <sup>1</sup> Value
NICS	24,324	12,149	12,258	24,407	83	0.3%	281	1.2%
NI Public Sector	223,710	70,653	154,023	224,676	966	0.4%	3,476	1.6%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As at March 2022

Commentary: Tables 5 and 6 compare NICS staff headcount with civil service headcount for Scotland, Wales and Great Britain as a whole (taken March 2023), and with the Northern Ireland Public Sector. Over the latest comparable quarter, there has been an increased headcount in NICS, Great Britain, Scottish and Welsh Governments of 0.3%, 1.0% 0.4% and 0.5% respectively. Over the latest comparable 12 months, the NICS staff headcount increased by 1.2%. All the other comparators presented in the tables also increased, the largest increase being 3.3% in the Scottish Government.

### Notes:

Data for NICS sourced from HRConnect and additional DoJ databases.

Home Civil Service, Scottish Government and Welsh Government totals may not sum due to rounding.

Home Civil Service, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and NI Public Sector figures relate to the latest available figures; March 2023. NICS figures for April 23 have been retained here to allow a more contemporaneous comparison.

Data and other relevant information for Home Civil Service, Scottish Government and Welsh Government, from 'Public Sector Employment' dataset, published by the Office for National Statistics which can be found on the ONS website.

Data for the Northern Ireland Public Sector sourced from the NISRA 'Quarterly Employment Survey'. For further information about this survey, please visit the Nisra website. The tables are sourced from the <a href="Quarterly Employment Survey">Quarterly Employment Survey</a>

The Northern Ireland Public Sector comprises central government (including bodies under the aegis of central government), local government and public corporations. Latest Northern Ireland Public Sector figures are always provisional.

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Please note these figures are not seasonally adjusted.

# **Yearly Comparison of NICS Employees (Headcount)**

Table 7
Yearly Comparison (January) of NICS Employees, Headcount

Year	Male	Female	Total
2000	14,784	13,507	28,291
2001	14,830	13,988	28,818
2002	15,211	14,688	29,899
2003	15,582	15,287	30,869
2004	15,951	15,745	31,696
2005	15,921	15,799	31,720
2006	15,762	15,662	31,424
2007	15,178	15,091	30,269
2008	13,389	14,485	27,874
2009	13,303	13,828	27,131
2010	13,265	13,669	26,934
2011	13,083	13,934	27,017
2012	14,050	13,944	27,994
2013	13,961	14,008	27,969
2014	13,832	14,104	27,936
2015	13,557	13,962	27,519
2016	12,325	12,739	25,064
2017	11,580	11,842	23,422
2018	11,509	11,727	23,236
2019	11,346	11,578	22,924
2020	11,307	11,537	22,844
2021	11,367	11,516	22,883
2022	12,049	12,073	24,122
2023	12,126	12,198	24,324

<sup>\*</sup>Figures as at 1 January

**Commentary:** The number of civil servants rose from 28,291 in 2000 to a peak of 31,720 in 2005 before decreasing to 22,844 in 2020, recently increasing again to 24,324 in 2023. Over the period 2000-2015 several parts of the NICS changed their status and ceased to be part of the civil service, while other staff were included in civil service figures as a result of changes related to policing and justice.

#### Discontinuity\*

### Years 2002 04

Size of Reduction: 400

Industrial Development Board (creation of Invest NI)

#### Year 2006

Size of Reduction: 700

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Science Service (became part of Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute)

#### Year 2007

Size of Reduction: 1,700

Water Service (became NI Water)

#### Year 2008

Size of Reduction: 1,200

Civilian staff seconded to PSNI (became PSNI staff)

#### Year 2015

Size of Reduction: 430
Planning Office staff became
employees of the Local
Councils

#### Year 2010

Size of Increase: 1,000

NI Court Service & Youth Justice Agency (Devolution of Policing and

Justice)

#### Year 2012

Size of Increase: 1,700

Inclusion of Prison Grade

staff

#### Year 2015

Size of Increase: 130

Legal Services Agency became part of the NICS

# **Background Notes**

# **Concepts and Definitions**

# The Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS)

1. The NICS is the civil service of the devolved administration. It includes staff working in the 9 Northern Ireland ministerial departments and staff working in the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (which is a non-ministerial Government department). Civil servants in the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland are also included.

### Coverage of NICS Staff

2. Figures relate to employees with an employment contract who are being paid by the Organisation. Employees can be permanent, on a fixed-term contract or employed on a casual basis. Self-employed, contract workers and agency workers are excluded. Staff on career breaks or on secondment outside the NICS are also excluded.

# Permanent and Temporary/Casual staff

3. Permanent employees are employees with a contract with no agreed expiry date or a fixed-termcontract of more than 12 months. Temporary/casual employees are those with a fixed term contract of twelve months or less, or employed on a casual basis.

# Headcount Figures

4. Headcount figures count each employee as one member of staff, irrespective of whether they work Full or part-time.

# FTE Figures

5. FTE figures are calculated by expressing each part-time employee's hours as a proportion of a full time employee's hours. Thus, for example, someone working 18.5 hours per week counts as 0.5 staff, since a full-time employee is considered to work 37 hours per week.

#### Full-time and Part-time Staff

6. Full-time staff are employees who are considered to work 37 hours per week and so have an FTE of 1.0. Part-time staff have an FTE of less than 1 and represent staff who over the course of a year work an average of less than 37 hours per week. As such, job share and term time staff are deemed to be part-time.

# 7. Names and abbreviations of Departments

Name	Abbreviation
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	DAERA
Department for Communities	DfC
Department for the Economy	DfE
Department of Education	DE
Department of Finance	DoF
Department of Health	DoH
Department for Infrastructure	Dfl
Department of Justice	DoJ
The Executive Office	TEO
Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland	PPS Page 10

# **Analogous Grade Levels**

Each grade in each occupational group has an associated grade level. The titles of the grade levels are actual grades in the General Service; in other occupational groups the grade names would be different. The table below lists the grade levels in descending order of seniority.

Grade Level	Abbreviation
Grade 5 (Assistant Secretary) and higher	G5+
Grade 6 (Senior Principal) & Grade 7 (Principal)	G6/G7
Deputy Principal	DP
Staff Officer	SO
Executive Officer I & Executive Officer II	EOI/EOII
Administrative Officer	AO
Administrative Assistant	AA

# **Voluntary Exit Scheme**

8. The NICS launched a Voluntary Exit Scheme (VES) in March 2015. The first tranche of staff to leave under the scheme did so at the end of September 2015 with subsequent tranches leaving at the end of November 2015, January 2016 and March 2016.

The final tranche left at the end of May 2016. Visit the DOF Website for details on the VES.

# Information on Quality

Background Quality Report

9. The Background Quality Report is available on the NISRA website.

**Next Publication: November 2023** 

#### **Further Information**

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To download any of the tables found in this report in Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) format, visit the Employment Statistics page on the NISRA website. If you require this publication in a machine-readable format, the tables supplied in .xlsx format can be saved as .csv files by Microsoft Excel or by the free Apache OpenOffice suite.

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