

**Strategic Planning & Corporate
Services Group**
Strategic Support Directorate



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: DAERA/26-20

██████████ via e-mail

Capacity Capability Equality & Diversity
Branch

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Email: CapabilityandStaffAdmin@daera-ni.gov.uk

29 January 2026

Dear ██████████

Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 12 January 2026 which sought the following information:

From January 2024 to date, broken down into each business area and grade within DAERA may I have the following:

- 1) *The number of staff currently in post;*
- 2) *The number who are partially retired;*
- 3) *The number of applications submitted for partial retirement during the above period;*
- 4) *The number of successful and unsuccessful applications; and*
- 5) *The current number of staff vacancies.*

I have recently been added to the 'Weekly Pool' held on HRC for staff wishing to change their work preference, who can't be accommodated within their current role. May I have the stats for the time period above showing how many DAERA

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staff were obtained from this list to fill part time vacancies and the time between being added to the list and their placement in a new post.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested as detailed below at Annex A and B.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department.

If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

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From January 2024 to date, broken down into each business area and grade within DAERA may I have the following:

Request 1 – The number of staff currently in post.

Response – At month end January 2024 DAERA had 3427 Staff in Post and at December 2025 DAERA had 3524 Staff in Post. Breakdown by DAERA group and analogous grade is attached at Annex B.

The Employee data is sourced from HR Connect at month end and excludes staff on career break, contingent workers, recruitment agency workers, secondees, sandwich students, non-civil servants, and payroll only. Data provided by Workforce Data & Reporting Branch DoF at Month End. [DAERA Staff in Post Report – January 2024 & NICS Workforce Dashboard – December 2025].

Request 2 – The number who are partially retired.

Response – From information held there were 212 DAERA staff partially retired at month end December 2025.

Data provided by Workforce Data & Reporting Branch DoF at Month End [NICS Summary Dashboard – Workforce and Vacancy Management – Month Ending December 2025]. This Dashboard was introduced in April 2025, therefore information preceding this date is not held. The information requested at January 2024 may be held by the Department of Finance.

Request 3 – The number of applications submitted for partial retirement during the above period.

Response – Information not held. This information may be held by the Department of Finance.

Request 4 – The number of successful and unsuccessful applications

Response – Information not held. This information may be held by the Department of Finance.

Request 5 – The current number of staff vacancies

Response – As at the end of January 2024, the NICSHR caseload for DAERA vacancies was 337 and at the end of December 2025 was 874 (the most recent figures available at the date of the request). The breakdown of these vacancies by business area/analogous grade is provided in tables at Annex B.

The information has been extracted from the DAERA Staff in Post & Vacancy Information – Month ending January 2024 and the NICS Management Information – Vacancy Dashboard – Month Ending December 2025 (provided by Workforce Data

& Reporting Branch DoF). Vacancy figures are derived from the NICSHR Vacancy Management tracker which is an administrative data source.

Request 6 - 'Weekly Pool' held on HRC for staff wishing to change their work preference. May I have the stats for the time period above showing how many DAERA staff were obtained from this list to fill part time vacancies and the time between being added to the list and their placement in a new post.

Response – Information not held. This information may be held by the Department of Finance.

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DAERA Staff In Post (SIP) & Vacancies at Month End – January 2024 & December 2025

**DAERA Staff in Post Month End
January 2024**

Group	Substantive Analogous Grade								
	AA	AO	EOII	EOI	SO	DP	G7	G6	SCS
CCSIG	0	*	*15	6	29	46	*20	*	5
EMFG	0	34	40	54	91	76	27	7	5
FS	0	93	20	44	20	16	4	0	1
FFRAG	29	277	108	124	349	183	43	9	7
NIEA	4	96	41	158	152	112	30	5	2
VSAHG	*	*85	154	169	95	75	117	9	6
SPCSG	6	35	53	47	79	75	25	6	9

* indicates a value of less than 4 at that grade amalgamated with *the adjacent grade to ensure no individuals can be identified.

**DAERA Staff in Post Month End December
2025**

Group	Substantive Analogous Grade								
	AA	AO	EOII	EOI	SO	DP	G7	G6	SCS
CCSIG		5	12	10	35	52	28	10	5
ETWFIG	*	*6	8	6	24	13	*9	*	3
EMFG		30	36	52	103	97	31	8	4
FS		82	27	38	18	7	*10	*	1
FFRAG	18	119	78	137	359	160	52	11	4
NIEA	4	88	40	138	174	125	35	7	4
VSAHG	10	215	193	168	122	50	142	12	6
SPCSG	*	*27	54	37	64	65	*30	*	6

* indicates a value of less than 4 at that grade amalgamated with *the adjacent grade to ensure no individuals can be identified.

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Vacancies by Business Area & Analogous Grade Month End January 2024

Business Area	Analogous Grade										Grand Total
	AA	AO	EO2	EO1	SO	DP	G7	G6	SCS	Ind 2	
DAERA, Climate Change, Science & Innovation Group	2			2	6	5	3	4			22
DAERA, Chief Scientific Advisor's Office				2	2	1	2				7
DAERA, Green Growth and Climate Action	2				1						3
DAERA, Innovation and Science Transformation Division					2	3	1	4			10
DAERA, Climate Change & Green Growth Policy					1	1					2
DAERA, Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group			4	1	6	10	2				23
DAERA, Environment Marine & Fisheries Directorate			1	1			1				3
DAERA, Marine & Fisheries Division			3								3
DAERA, Natural Environment Policy Division					6	8	1				15
DAERA, Environmental Resources Policy Division						2					2
DAERA, Forest Service		2		9	6		2	2			21
DAERA, FS Forestry		2		9	3		2	1			17
DAERA, FS Plant Health								1			1
DAERA, FS Principal Management					2						2
DAERA, FS Principal Management					1						1
DAERA, Food, Farming & Rural Affairs Group	10	2	3	29	16	9	5			1	75
DAERA, Agricultural Policy Division				1	1						2
DAERA, Area Based Schemes Development Division			3	2	3		2				10
DAERA, CAFRE				5	4	5				1	15

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DAERA, Countryside Management				17	3	1					21
DAERA, Farm, Food and Environmental Policy	1										1
DAERA, Food and Farming G3 Division	3	1									4
DAERA, Food, Farm and Rural Policy	5										5
DAERA, Policy, Economics and Statistics Division						1					1
DAERA, Rural Affairs Division		1		2	2		3				8
DAERA, Sustainable Agri-food Development	1				2	3					6
DAERA, EU Area-based Schemes				2							2
DAERA, Northern Ireland Environment Agency	23	2	1	8	8	2	1				45
DAERA, NIEA Directorate	1										1
DAERA, NIEA Natural Environment Division	11		1	1	1						14
DAERA, NIEA Resource Efficiency Division Klondyke	11	2		7	7	2	1				30
DAERA, Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group	5	10	31	4	18	13	3		1	21	106
DAERA, Animal Health and Welfare Policy Jubilee House	1	9	4		6						20
DAERA, Enzootic Division Jubilee House					9	3					12
DAERA, Epizootic Diseases and Public Health Jubilee House			26	3	3	9	3			21	65
DAERA, Vet Implementation			1			1					2
DAERA, VS Business Management Branch	4	1		1					1		7
DAERA, Strategic Planning & Corporate Services Group	5	4	16	9	7	1	3				45
DAERA, Digital Services Directorate	4	1	12	7	5	1	1				31
DAERA, Central Service & Contingency Planning Management Div			1	1	1		2				5
DAERA, Communications & Engagement Division	1	3	2	1	1						8

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DAERA, CSCP NIFAIS Programme Division			1								1
Grand Total	45	20	55	62	67	40	19	6	1	22	337

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DAERA Vacancies Month End December 2025

Business Area	AO	EO2	EO1	SO	DP	G7	G6	SCS	Ind1	Ind 2	Ind3	Grand Total
DAERA, CCSIG	1	12	5	11	28	9	1					67
DAERA, Chief Scientific Advisor's Office				2	7	3						12
DAERA, Climate Act Delivery		4	2	4	7	2	1					20
DAERA, Climate Change Policy and Legislation Division	1	4	2	3	8	4						22
DAERA, Green Growth and Innovation Division		4	1	2	6							13
DAERA, Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group	1	3	15	32	30	12	2			1		96
DAERA, Environment Marine & Fisheries Directorate										1		1
DAERA, Environmental Resources Policy Division	1		3	2	3	4						13
DAERA, Marine & Fisheries Division		3	10	21	18	7	1					60
DAERA, Natural Environment Policy Division			2	9	9	1	1					22
DAERA, Estates Transformation & Windsor Framework Implementation Group	2	1	6	1	3	1						14
DAERA, Windsor Framework Implementation Directorate		1	4		2							7
DAERA, Estate Transformation Division	2		2	1	1	1						7
DAERA, Food, Farming & Rural Affairs Group	16	10	9	51	38	19	2	1				146
DAERA, CAFRE	8		3	20	12	4	1	1				49
DAERA, Policy, Economics and Statistics Division	1		1	1		1						4
DAERA, Sustainable Agri-food Development		1		2	1	4						8
DAERA, Agricultural Policy Division		1	1	4	5	2	1					14
DAERA, Area Based Schemes Development Division	7	6	1	9	1	1						25
DAERA, Rural Affairs Division		2	1	9	7	3						22
DAERA, Food, Farm and Rural Policy			2	6	12	4						24
DAERA, Forest Service	3	5	16	6	6	1	1			4	4	46
DAERA, FS Estate Management Admin Services	1											1
DAERA, FS Forestry	1		10	3	3		1			4	4	26
DAERA, FS Plant Health Inspection	1	5	6	2		1						15
DAERA, FS Principal Management				1	3							4

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DAERA, Northern Ireland Environment Agency	14	9	67	66	32	14	4					206
DAERA, NIEA Directorate	2	5	3	5								15
DAERA, NIEA Natural Environment Division	8	3	29	26	19	6	1					92
DAERA, NIEA Regulation & Enforcement Division		1	34	35	13	7	3					93
DAERA, NIEA Resource Efficiency Division	4		1			1						6
DAERA, Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group	43	53	24	39	9	51	1	1	1	23		245
DAERA, WF Division	8	10	7	13	4	20		1	1			64
DAERA, Animal Health and Welfare Policy	1			3	1	3						8
DAERA, Vet Policy			1	1								2
DAERA, Enzootic Division	17	16	3	15		3						54
DAERA, Epizootic Diseases and Public Health	16	26	12	7	2	25	1			23		112
DAERA, NIFAIS Programme Division		1										1
DAERA, VS Business Management Branch	1		1		2							4
DAERA, Strategic Planning & Corporate Services Group	5	10	15	10	6	4	3	1				54
DAERA, Digital Services Directorate	1	5	13	5	3	1	2					30
DAERA, Strategic Support Directorate	4	4	2	2	1	1						14
DAERA, Corporate Governance Division						2						2
DAERA, Strategic Planning & Corporate Services Mgt Division					2		1	1				4
DAERA, Finance Division		1		3								4
Grand Total	85	103	157	216	152	111	14	3	1	28	4	874

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