

**Strategic Planning and Corporate
Services**
Strategic Support Directorate



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: DAERA/26-442

██████████
██████████ [@proton.me](mailto:██████████@proton.me)

Media Services
Clare House
303 Airport Road W
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Tel: 02890163460

Email: pressoffice.group@daera-ni.gov.uk

27 July 2026

Dear ██████████,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 1st July 2026 which sought the following information:

1. Number of press officers and social media staff for each government press office as of 6 April 2026 including those on a permanent or temporary contract, freelance, agency workers, including all managers/oversight positions.

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2. Number of administrative and other employees for each government press office, including those on a permanent or temporary contract, freelance, agency workers as of the same date.
3. Total salary costs since start of this mandate - February 2024 - for all these employees/staff, including agency, temporary and freelance staff.
4. Total overtime costs including any exceptional payments since the start of this mandate for all these employees/staff, including agency, temporary and freelance staff.

Q1.

- A. As of 6 April 2026, there are 6 press officers working in DAERA's press office, two of whom are agency staff.

Q2.

- A. As of 6 April 2026, there are 3 administrative (no other) employees in the DAERA press office.

Q3.

- A. The total salary costs for the DAERA press office since the start of this mandate – February 2024 - is £900,557.31.

Q4.

- A. The total overtime costs for all staff working in the DAERA press office since the start of this mandate is £9,386.94.

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,

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Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DAERA Media Services

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