



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

Capacity Capability Equality & Diversity
Branch
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BELFAST
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3 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your e-mail received by the Department on 07 July 2026 in which you requested:

- 1. Current Headcount: As of the date of this request, how many individual staff members within your Department are currently filling a General Service Grade 6 post on a Temporary Promotion (TP) basis?**
- 2. Duration Breakdown: Of the total number identified in Question 1, please provide a breakdown of how many of these Grade 6 TPs have been held continuously by the same individual for:**
 - (a) Between 0 and 6 months
 - (b) Between 6 and 12 months
 - (c) Between 12 and 24 months
 - (d) Over 24 months
- 3. Operational Justification: For any Grade 6 TP identified in Question 2 that has continuously exceeded a duration of 12 months, please state the recorded operational reason why a permanent drawdown from the active IRC306699 merit list was not requested to fill the vacancy.**
- 4. Merit List Requests: Since the establishment of the IRC306699 merit list, how many formal requests has your Department submitted to NICSHR / Department of Finance to permanently fill a Grade 6 vacancy from this specific panel?**

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested up to the 30 June 2026, as detailed below at Annex A.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

If you require any clarification or believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact Capacity Capability Equality & Diversity Branch or the email address above, 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 to 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]

[Redacted title]

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We invest in people Standard



1. Current Headcount: As of the date of this request, how many individual staff members within your Department are currently filling a General Service Grade 6 post on a Temporary Promotion (TP) basis?

Response – At the 30 June 2026 nine members of staff were temporarily promoted to Grade 6.

2. Duration Breakdown: Of the total number identified in Question 1, please provide a breakdown of how many of these Grade 6 TPs have been held continuously by the same individual for:

- (a) Between 0 and 6 months
- (b) Between 6 and 12 months
- (c) Between 12 and 24 months
- (d) Over 24 months

Response – At the 30 June 2026 nine members of staff held a Grade 6 Temporary Promotion continuously across the periods requested.

Information has been aggregated across the periods requested to avoid the potential identification of individuals associated with a small number of cases.

3. Operational Justification: For any Grade 6 TP identified in Question 2 that has continuously exceeded a duration of 12 months, please state the recorded operational reason why a permanent drawdown from the active IRC306699 merit list was not requested to fill the vacancy.

Response – Three reasons were recorded as to why a permanent drawdown from IRC306699 was not requested to fill the vacancy

- Pending wider decisions to be taken the future structure of the Division;
- Pending decision on the long-term structure of the Division; and
- To cover a special exercise, a decision will be made in the coming months whether to disband or if the post should be made into a permanent post.

4. Merit List Requests: Since the establishment of the IRC306699 merit list, how many formal requests has your Department submitted to NICSHR / Department of Finance to permanently fill a Grade 6 vacancy from this specific panel?

Response - Since the establishment of the merit list seven formal requests were made to fill vacancies, one vacancy was subsequently withdrawn.