

DE/2026-031– Freedom of Information Request

Request:

I am unable to find any public figures or statistics regarding the following and was hoping the department could share information about:

- How many teachers are currently teaching (active) in NI?
- How many teachers are employed via: (1) contract, (2) NISTR, (3) a combination of contract and NISTR?
- What number/percentage of each pay grade/band (M1+) are employed via: (1) contract, (2) NISTR, (3) a combination of contract and NISTR?
- How many teachers currently employed have completed: (1) Induction, (2) EPD 1 and 2, (3) PRSD?
- How many teachers have previously retired from contracted employment and are now employed via NISTR?
- How many beginning teachers graduate each year from Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in Northern Ireland?
- How many beginning teachers return from ITE in the UK or ROI each year?
- How many vacant teaching positions are there within NI at present?
- How many teachers are employed to teach in Specialist provisions (e.g. SPiMs, SPEYFS, EOTAS) or Special schools, and how many of them are employed via NISTR?

Department Response:

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 21 February 2026. I can confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested and can provide details for some of your requests.

1. How many teachers are currently teaching (active) in NI?

There are currently 22,455 active teachers on the payroll administered by Teachers' Pay Team (TPT) within the Department.

2. How many teachers are employed via: (1) contract, (2) NISTR, (3) a combination of contract and NISTR?

There are currently 18,045 teachers employed on a permanent contract. These include teachers employed permanently under a 1-year contract.

There were 4,410 NISTR teachers employed in February 2026.

There are currently 4,359 permanent part-time teachers who may also be employed through NISTR on non-working days.

3. What number/percentage of each pay grade/band (M1+) are employed via:

Pay Grade/Band	Contract	Combination of Contract & NISTR	Pay Grade/Band	NISTR
Main Pay Scale Point 2	166	16	Main Pay Scale Point 2	877
Main Pay Scale Point 3	379	30	Main Pay Scale Point 3	544
Main Pay Scale Point 4	567	50	Main Pay Scale Point 4	512
Main Pay Scale Point 5	413	43	Main Pay Scale Point 5	220
Main Pay Scale Point 6	995	225	Main Pay Scale Point 6	643
Upper Pay Scale Point 1	905	263	Upper Pay Scale Point 1	370
Upper Pay Scale Point 2	930	351	Upper Pay Scale Point 2	197
Upper Pay Scale Point 3	7700	3248	Upper Pay Scale Point 3	1035
Leadership Point 1 - 10	286	22	Leadership Scale	11
Leadership Point 11 - 20	944	77		
Leadership Points Above 21	400	34		

(1) contract, (2) NISTR, (3) a combination of contract and NISTR?

Please note that Leadership points have been grouped in order that points with small numbers of teachers do not allow for individual identification of employees

4. How many teachers currently employed have completed: (1) Induction, (2) EPD 1 and 2, (3) PRSD?

The Department does not hold any information in relation to Induction, EPD1 & 2 or PRSD's as all completed within each teacher's individual school.

5. How many teachers have previously retired from contracted employment and are now employed via NISTR?

There were 840 previously retired teachers employed via NISTR in February 2026.

6. How many beginning teachers graduate each year from Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in Northern Ireland?

The Department does not hold teacher graduate information which may be available from the individual colleges/universities or the General Teaching Council (NI).

7. How many beginning teachers return from ITE in the UK or ROI each year?

The Department does not hold this information.

8. How many vacant teaching positions are there within NI at present?

The latest compiled vacancy teaching position information is available on the Department's website – ;

[Teacher vacancies, sickness absence and substitution statistics in grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland, 2024/25](#)

9. How many teachers are employed to teach in Specialist provisions (e.g. SPiMs, SPEYFS, EOTAS) or Special schools, and how many of them are employed via NISTR?

The Department does not hold information in relation to teacher positions as it is not the teacher's employer. This information would be available from individual schools.

Please note that any of the information provided in this response does not contain any figures for the Voluntary Grammar school sector as the Department does not administer their payrolls. Any information in relation to this school sector should be requested from individual voluntary grammar schools.