

## **DE/2026-059– Freedom of Information Request**

### **Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details regarding press and communications staff working on behalf of the department.

I am seeking an update on a similar FOI request submitted last year.

Please disclose the following, both in terms of head count and full-time equivalent:

1. The number of press and communications staff.
2. A breakdown of these staff by job title (e.g. number of press officers, heads of press office, directors of communications, social media staff, etc).
3. The overall spend on salaries for these staff in the year 2025/26.

### **Department Response:**

I wish to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 1 April 2026. You requested the information listed below:

Please disclose the following, both in terms of head count and full-time equivalent:

- The number of press and communications staff.
- A breakdown of these staff by job title (e.g. number of press officers, heads of press office, directors of communications, social media staff, etc).
- The overall spend on salaries for these staff in the year 2025/26.

During the 2025/2026 financial year there were four full-time and one-part time professional press and communications staff employed. These staff are involved in the delivery of the Department's and the Executive's communications objectives, providing strategic communications advice to the Minister and the wider department, delivering pro-active and re-active communications and developing digital content.

The Head of Branch role also has other responsibilities which are not related to communications activities, however full salary costs have been included, as it is not possible to apportion salary costs to individual activities.

The breakdown is as follows:

1 x Grade 6, Head of Ministerial Support & Communications

1 x Grade 7, Principal Information Officer, Head of Press Office

2 x Deputy Principal, Senior Information Officers

1 x Staff Officer, Information Officer – 0.8 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

The overall spend on salaries for the above staff for FY 2025/26 is £373,470.

Please note that the spend on salaries figures provided shows the gross cost to the Department (including employer's National Insurance and pension contributions paid by the employer) but via the following link, you will be able to view the salary scales for all grades of staff in the NICS: [Non Industrial Pay Scales 1 August 2024 to 31 March 202](#)