



Northern
Ireland
Office

Northern Ireland Office
Freedom of Information Team
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Ref: FOI/21/57

Dear [REDACTED]

5 May 2021

Thank you for your request dated 2nd April 2021 in which you requested that the Northern Ireland Office provide the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA"):

How many press/new/comms/media/information officers have you had in each of the last five years, including admin staff supporting such functions? Please supply the requested information by grade.

In response to your query I can confirm that the Northern Ireland Office holds the information. The number of communication officers broken down by grade / band and financial year is included in the table below.

Year	SCS2	SCS1	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Total
2016 / 17	0	0	0	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0	[REDACTED]
2017 / 18	0	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0	7
2018 / 19	0	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	8
2019 / 20	0	0	[REDACTED]	0	[REDACTED]	0	[REDACTED]	8
2020 / 21	[REDACTED]	0	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0	[REDACTED]	10

You have the right to appeal our decision if you think it is incorrect. If you believe this reply is not in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request a review you should do so in writing stating the reasons.

If following an internal review you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask him to investigate whether the NIO has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House

Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: www.ico.org.uk

If you wish to discuss this letter or our handling of your request, please contact the Freedom of Information Team using the contact details provided at the top of the first page. Please remember to quote your reference in any correspondence.

Thank you for your interest in the Northern Ireland Office.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Manager