

Dear Minister

Can you assist me re: a FOI for the numbers of your Dept's staff who are working from an office rather than home?.



Our Ref: DFC/2020-0194

Dear

Date: 20 October 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Department has now completed its search for the information, about staff working from offices, which you requested on 1 October 2021.

You specifically requested “the numbers of your Dept's staff who are working from an office rather than home”.

I can confirm that the most recent data collection point, before your request was received, was for the 12th October 2021. On this day the department had 8,808 staff in post, of which:

- 2,313 were working on site; and
- 4,846 were working remotely;

The remainder of staff were not working on that date due to:

- leave which includes “Annual”, “Flexi”, “Maternity” and “Alternative Working Pattern”;
- sickness absence which includes Covid sickness absence (“Positive Cases” and “Self-isolation”); and
- a small number of staff on Covid Rota or awaiting IT requirements to enable home working.

The department does not centrally record whether staff who are not working on a specific date would be usually working from an office or at home.

If you are dissatisfied with this response and wish to request a review of our decision or make a complaint about how your request has been handled, you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. You should write to the Information Access Manager, Department for Communities, Level 5, Nine Lanyon Place, BELFAST, BT1 3LP, or send an email to foi@communities-ni.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of our original decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely