

FOI Request (received 16 June 2025) - Reference: DFI/2025-0279

What is the minimum or standard number of days that civil servants in the department are currently expected to be in the office each week?

Is there any evidence or data indicating the extent to which these expectations are being met?

Who is responsible for setting the minimum number of in-office days?

Are there any planned changes to this minimum attendance requirement in the near future?

How many desks are currently available in the department, and how does this compare to the number of staff requiring desk space?

Was any evidence—particularly relating to staff performance or efficiency—used to inform the current hybrid working policy? If so, can this evidence be shared, and will similar evidence inform future policy decisions?

Finally, within the cost limit of £600, please provide any internal communications relating to hybrid working or return-to-office policies, particularly among permanent secretaries, senior civil servants, and departmental leadership, from January 2023 to the present.

Response (issued 11 July 2025)

Thank you for your email dated 20 June 2025 requesting under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), the following information held by the Department:

“What is the minimum or standard number of days that civil servants in the department are currently expected to be in the office each week?”

Is there any evidence or data indicating the extent to which these expectations are being met?

Who is responsible for setting the minimum number of in-office days?

Are there any planned changes to this minimum attendance requirement in the near future?

How many desks are currently available in the department, and how does this compare to the number of staff requiring desk space?

Was any evidence- particularly relating to staff performance or efficiency—used to inform the current hybrid working policy? If so, can this evidence be shared, and will similar evidence inform future policy decisions?

Finally, within the cost limit of £600, please provide any internal communications relating to hybrid working or return-to-office policies, particularly among permanent secretaries, senior civil servants, and departmental leadership, from January 2023 to the present.”

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department holds some information relating to your request and being suitable for disclosure, the attachment issued with this response provides the Department’s response to each of the points raised.

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