FOI Request (received 01 July 2026) - Reference: DFI/2026-0401

Under FOI I am requesting the following information.

Number of press officers and social media staff for each government press office as of 6 April 2026 including those on a permanent or temporary contract, freelance, agency workers. This should include all managers/oversight positions.

Number of administrative and other employees for each government press office, including those on a permanent or temporary contract, freelance, agency workers as of the same date.

Total salary costs since start of this mandate - February 2024 - for all these employees/staff, including agency, temporary and freelance staff.

Total overtime costs including any exceptional payments since the start of this mandate for all these employees/staff, including agency, temporary and freelance staff.

Response (issued 29 July 2026)

Thank you for your letter/email dated 1 July 2026 requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), the following information held by the Department:

- *Number of press officers and social media staff for each government press office as of 6 April 2026 including those on a permanent or temporary contract, freelance, agency workers. This should include all managers/oversight positions.*
- *Number of administrative and other employees for each government press office, including those on a permanent or temporary contract, freelance, agency workers as of the same date.*
- *Total salary costs since start of this mandate - February 2024 - for all these employees/staff, including agency, temporary and freelance staff.*
- *Total overtime costs including any exceptional payments since the start of this mandate for all these employees/staff, including agency, temporary and freelance staff.*

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department does hold information relating to your request and being suitable for disclosure.

<u>Department for Infrastructure Press Office Staff Numbers and Costs:</u>

- *Number of press officers and social media staff for each government press office as of 6 April 2026 including those on a permanent or temporary contract, freelance, agency workers. This should include all managers/oversight positions.*
- *Number of administrative and other employees for each government press office, including those on a permanent or temporary contract, freelance, agency workers as of the same date.*

  The Department for Infrastructure Press Office has a total of 10 people who provide press office services to support Ministerial priorities including strategic communication, media relations and digital services for the Department's Transport, Planning and Water Directorates and the Driver Vehicle Agency. The team also lead the communications response across the public sector during weather related emergency communications. This includes one Senior Information Officer who is part-time and two part-time Staff Officers who support the Press Office team who job-share broken down as follows:

  1 x PIO

  3 x SIO (one seconded)

  1 x SIO (part-time)

  1 x Social Media editor

  1 x Staff Officer (job-share/partial retirement)

  1 x Staff Officer

  1 x AO

- *Total salary costs since start of this mandate - February 2024 - for all these employees/staff, including agency, temporary and freelance staff.*

  Total salary costs including pension contributions and national insurance from February 2024 - present are: £909,050.21.

- *Total overtime costs including any exceptional payments since the start of this mandate for all these employees/staff, including agency, temporary and freelance staff.*

  Overtime costs from the start of this mandate which relate to duties undertaken during weather-related emergency response are: £4041.73.

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