

Question:

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:

In relation to questions 1 and 2, please see the table below. This information includes all staff in the Department of Health Press Office as of 6th April 2026.

Press Office Role	Number of staff
Press Officer/social media staff	
Principal Information Officer – (Grade 7)	1
Senior Information Officer – (Deputy Principal)	3
Information Officer – (Staff Officer)	2
Social Media Editor – (Deputy Principal)	1
Admin Staff	
Executive Officer 1	1
Administrative Officer	1

Q 3. Total salary costs since start of this mandate - February 2024 - for all these employees/staff, including agency, temporary and freelance staff.

A. £1,186,772.68*

*Please note, there have been a number of staff changes since the start of the mandate. The figures provided include the salary for each job role in the office from Feb 2024 to April 2026 covering all staff changes.

Where there have been different staff covering the same role during the period, the salary costs for each staff member have been included in the total figure, not just the member of staff who is in post as of 6 April 2026.

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

A. NIL

Date response issued: 29th July 2026
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