

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE BY  
DEPUTY J.G. REED OF ST OUEN**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 19th JUNE 2007**

**Question**

Would the Minister advise the Assembly what the total number of public sector staff vacancies were for the six month periods to 30th June 2005, 31st December 2005, 30th June 2006, 31st December 2006 and 30th May 2007 within his Department?

Of the staff posts transferred to and from the Department during the above periods, how many were actually vacant at the time of transfer?

What funds were saved by Departments from unfilled posts in each period?

How many of the existing vacancies are currently budgeted for and how many vacancies have remained unfilled for a period of 12 months or more?

**Answer**

*Would the Minister advise the Assembly what the total number of public sector staff vacancies were for the six month periods to 30th June 2005, 31st December 2005, 30th June 2006, 31st December 2006 and 30th May 2007 within his Department?*

	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Headcount</b>
Vacancies as at 30/6/05	16.70	(52)
Vacancies as at 31/12/05	25.52	39
Vacancies as at 30/6/06	(12.85)	10
Vacancies as at 31/12/06	45.16	53
Vacancies as at 30/05/07	6.78	23

*Of the staff posts transferred to and from his Department during the above periods, how many were actually vacant at the time of the transfer?*

	<b>Headcount</b>
Transfers to Chief Ministers - HR	(10) no vacancies
Transfer to Chief Ministers - ICT	( 3) no vacancies
Transfer to Treasury & Resources - Finance Property Holdings	( 6) no vacancies Transfer to Treasury & Resources - (10) 1 vacant
Transfer to Health & Social Services	(38) 12 vacant*
Transfer from Health & Social Services - School Liaison	1 not vacant

\* 1 caretaker, 1 cleaner, 10 growth reference K Bull report

***What funds were saved by Departments from unfilled posts in each period?***

The department does not hold data on delays to recruitment to posts in schools and colleges. Vacancies in teaching establishments usually have to be filled with temporary staff such as supply teachers, teaching assistants, caretakers and school support staff. When a vacancy occurs in other areas of the department there is often a delay in recruitment resulting in savings which have contributed to meeting short term funding pressures on the non-staff element of the budget.

***How many of the existing vacancies are currently budgeted for and how many vacancies have remained unfilled for a period of 12 months or more?***

Under the Department's scheme for devolved financial management, Head teachers are given a staffing allocation based on FTE and Headcount but the Headteacher is afforded flexibility in the use of funding. The Head teachers have the responsibility for making the decisions in relation to recruitment and / or the use of funds for other purposes within the total allocation.

The department reports half yearly on the actual staffing against the budgeted amount for all sections including schools and colleges, sport centres, library and youth service.