

## **Summary overview of the location of public sector jobs and civil service jobs in Northern Ireland**

### **THE DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

1. Part of one of the objectives of the RPA Estates sub-group is 'to establish a base case of data on location of public sector jobs'. This paper describes an analysis of the distribution of these jobs across travel-to work areas<sup>1</sup>. An analysis of NICS jobs is presented in Annex 1.

2. The public sector represents a large proportion of jobs in Northern Ireland: currently some 31% of employee jobs<sup>2</sup>. These jobs include not just the civil service, NDPBs, and local government (which are wholly or partly affected by the RPA), but also the PSNI, public corporations, and teaching staff in schools.

3. Travel-To-Work Areas (TTWAs), as defined by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), are local labour markets – areas within which the majority of people both live and work. Accordingly, TTWAs are appropriate units for analysis in this paper. Figure 1 shows the number of full-time equivalent public sector jobs<sup>3</sup> per 100 economically active people<sup>4</sup> (i.e. those who are employed or seeking work) in each TTWA. The range is from 13.3 to 31.0. The lowest figures are for Strabane (13.3), Mid-Ulster (14.5), and Ballymena (16.8). The highest figures are for Omagh (31.0), Belfast (28.1) and Londonderry (25.9). The complete set of figures is given in Table A2.2 of Annex 2.

**Figure 1: Public sector posts (full-time equivalent) per 100 economically active people in each Travel-to-Work Area**



4. The Census of Employment, conducted by DETI, can be disaggregated by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2003), based on the business description for each employment unit. Table 1 gives a disaggregation for Northern Ireland as a whole. It shows that Sections<sup>5</sup> L (Public administration and defence; compulsory social security), M (Education), and N (Health and Social Work) together account for 86% of public sector employment.

**Table 1**  
**FTE public sector posts by Standard Industrial Classification**

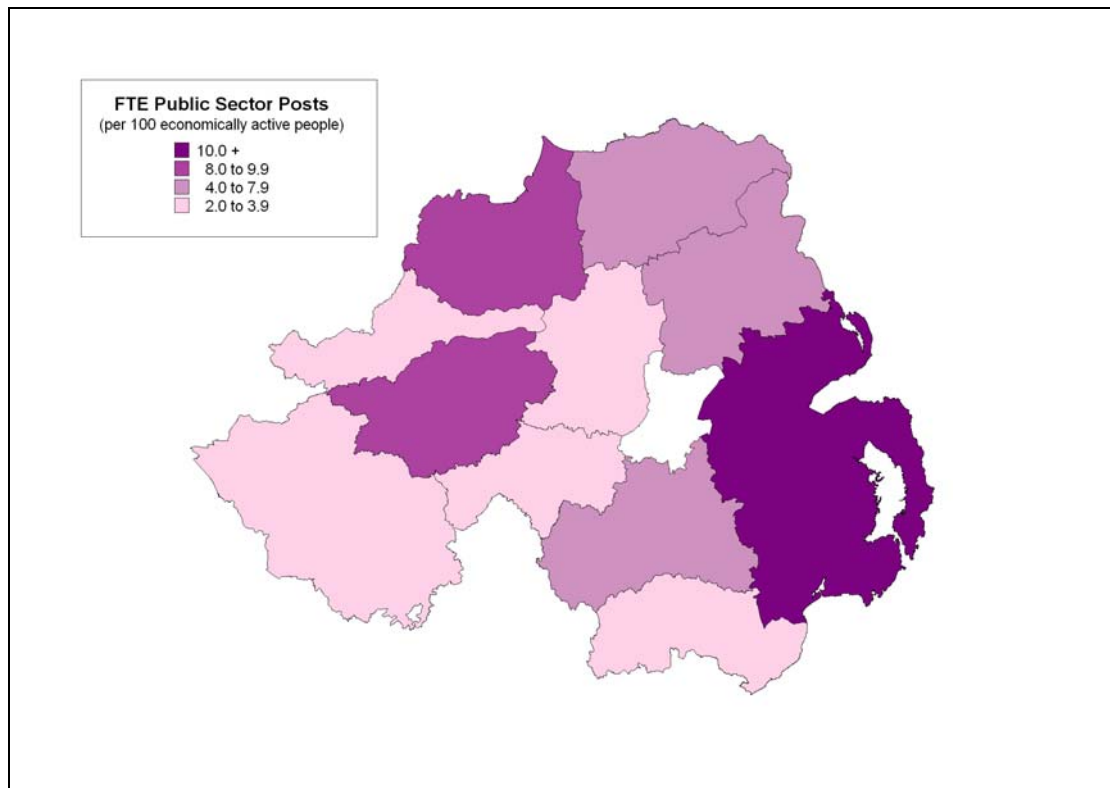
SIC 03 Industry Section	FTE public sector posts
L: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	55,629
M: Education	46,243
N: Health and Social Work	52,654.5
Other	25,905.5
Total	180,432

Source: Census of Employment 2005

5. In interpreting the industrial breakdown figures, it should be noted that staff from a large employer will not all necessarily appear in the same industrial classification. Thus, for example, around 80% of jobs in Education & Library Boards are in Section M, with about 10% in Section L and the remainder split across other SIC Sections.

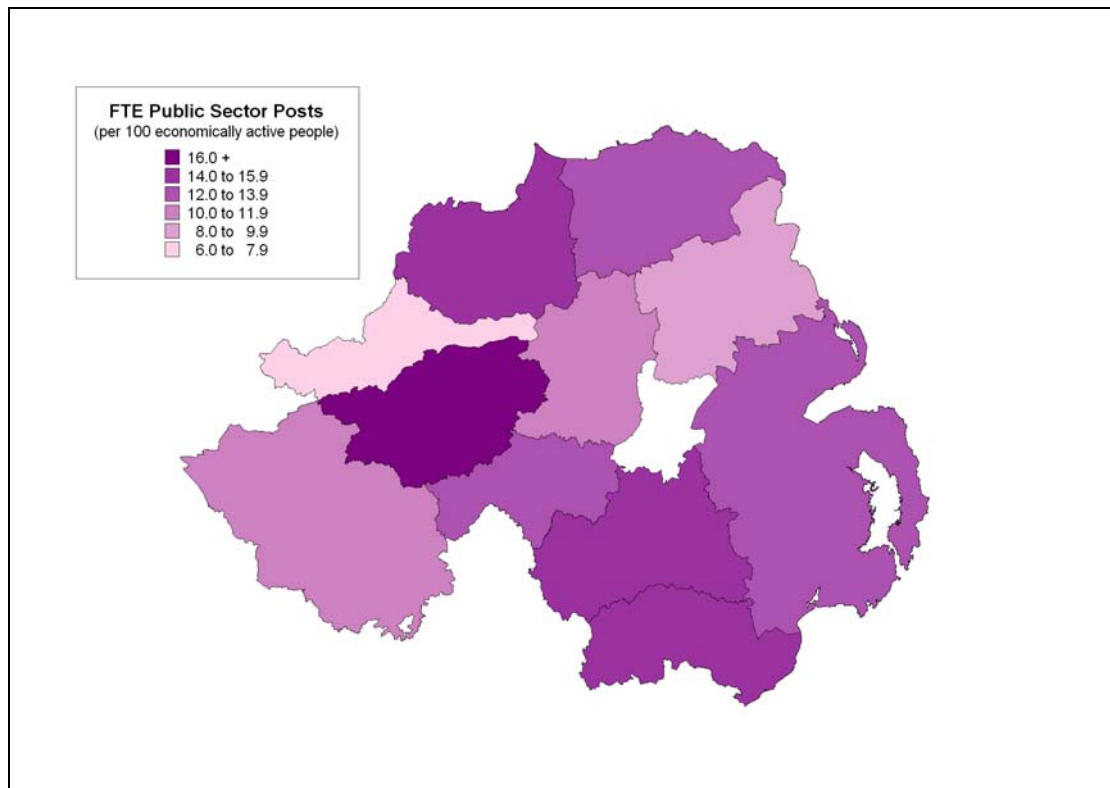
6. Figure 2 shows the number of full-time equivalent public sector jobs in “Public administration and defence; compulsory social security” per 100 economically active people in each TTWA. The lowest figures are for Mid-Ulster (2.1) and Newry (2.9). The highest figures are for Belfast (10.1), Omagh (8.4) and Londonderry (8.0). The complete set of figures is given in Table A2.3 of Annex 2.

**Figure 2: Public sector posts (full-time equivalent) in “Public administration and defence; compulsory social security” per 100 economically active people in each Travel-to-Work Area**



7. The release of figures by DETI is subject to confidentiality constraints: in practice this often means that figures for an SIC 03 Industry Section cannot be released at TTWA level. For that reason, in this paper Sections M (Education) and N (Health and Social Work) have had to be combined. Figure 3 shows the number of full-time equivalent public sector jobs in “Education” and “Health and Social Work” per 100 economically active people in each TTWA. The lowest figures are for Strabane (7.8) and Ballymena (8.5). The highest figures are for Omagh (18.7) and Londonderry (14.9). The complete set of figures is given in Table A2.4 of Annex 2.

**Figure 3: Public sector posts (full-time equivalent) in “Education” and “Health and Social Work” per 100 economically active people in each Travel-to-Work Area**



## **Conclusion**

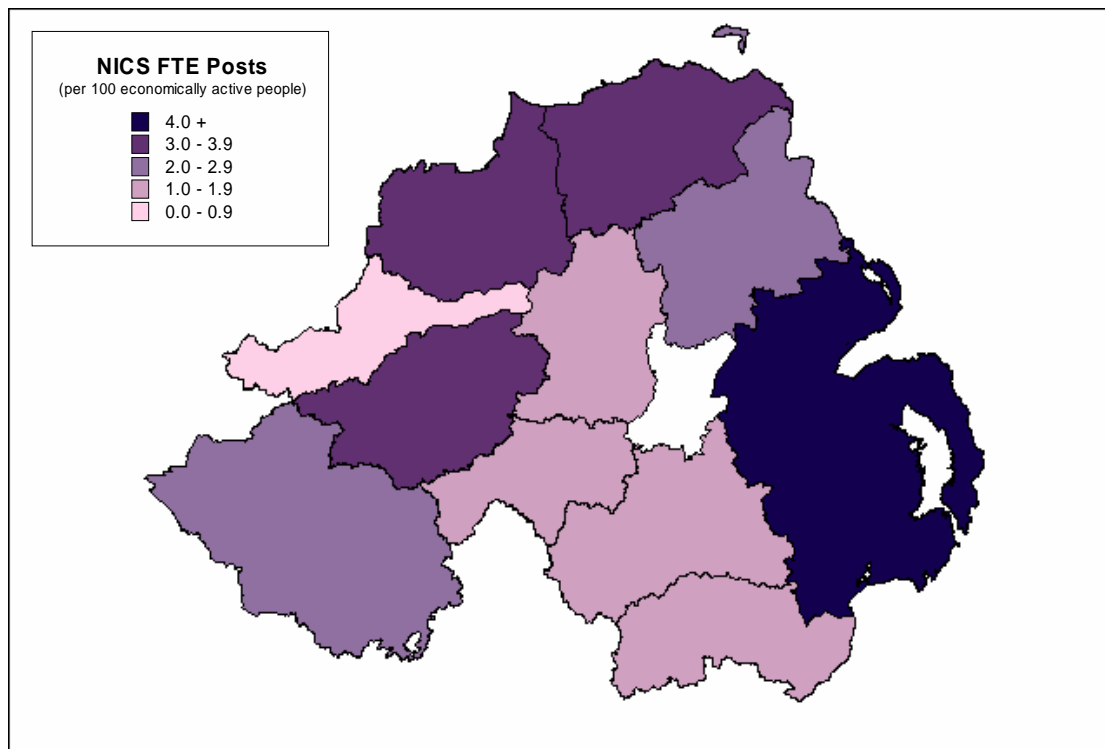
5. There is very considerable variation in the distribution of public sector jobs across TTWAs. As expected, Belfast has a high incidence of public sector jobs, but its proportion of such jobs is in fact lower than Omagh's, and only slightly higher than Londonderry's. Strabane, Mid-Ulster and Ballymena have the lowest prevalence of public sector jobs.

## ANNEX 1

### DISTRIBUTION OF NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE JOBS

Figure A1.1 shows the number of NICS jobs<sup>vi</sup> per 100 economically active people living in each TTWA. The overall figure for Northern Ireland is 3.9, but there is considerable variation between areas. The highest value is 5.5 (for the Belfast TTWA). The next highest are Omagh (3.6) and Londonderry (3.4). Lowest are Dungannon (1.1), Mid-Ulster (1.0) and Strabane (0.9). The complete set of figures is given in Table A2.1 of Annex 2.

**Figure A1.1: NICS posts (full-time equivalent) per 100 economically active people in each Travel-to-Work Area**



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<sup>1</sup> TTWAs are constructed from wards (based on commuting patterns from the 1991 Census of Population).

<sup>2</sup> Source: DETI Quarterly Employment Survey, March 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Census of Employment 2005. Each part-time job has been counted as half a full-time job. The count is based on where the jobs are located.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Northern Ireland Statistics website, [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk). Crown copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence. Licence number C2007001949.

<sup>5</sup> For detailed description see Annex 3.

<sup>vi</sup> Expressed as full-time equivalents. The count is based on where the jobs are located.