

FROM THE MINISTER



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Mr Flanagan has asked:

To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail, for each of the last eight years (i) the number of queries to the Labour Relations Agency (LRA); (ii) the number of queries relating to potential unfair dismissal claims; (iii) the number of employment tribunal hearings; (iv) the amount of funding provided to the LRA; (v) the full time equivalent staff makeup of the LRA; and (vi) the number of mediation cases involving the LRA.

ANSWER

The Labour Relations Agency is a Non-Departmental Public Body with responsibility for promoting the improvement of employment relations in Northern Ireland. The Agency has provided the information in Annex A, by way of answer to points (i), (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi).



DR STEPHEN FARRY MLA
Minister for Employment and Learning

ANNEX A

(i) The number of queries to the LRA, for each of the last eight years:

Year	No. of Queries (Helpline)
2005/06	46,804
2006/07	46,834
2007/08	48,292
2008/09	55,943
2009/10	53,871
2010/11	53,684
2011/12	55,811
2012/13	56,727

(ii) Queries relating to potential unfair dismissal claims, for each of the last eight years:

Year	No. of Unfair Dismissal Queries (Helpline)
2005/06	4,516
2006/07	4,321
2007/08	4,081
2008/09	5,010
2009/10	5,056
2010/11	4,519
2011/12	4,185
2012/13	4,578

(iv)/(v) The amount of funding provided to the LRA and the full-time equivalent make-up of the LRA:

Year	Funding (£'000)	Staff (Full time equivalent)
2005/06	2,965	59
2006/07	3,019	55
2007/08	3,200	58
2008/09	3,200	60
2009/10	3,695	60
2010/11	3,110	64
2011/12	3,700	67
2012/13	3,545	67

(vi) The number of mediation cases involving the LRA (split into ‘Conciliated Cases received’ and ‘Interpersonal Mediations’):

Year	Conciliated Cases received (including Fair Employment)	Interpersonal Mediations
2005/06	10,013	6
2006/07	5,876	0
2007/08	4,933	0
2008/09	5,681	4
2009/10	16,548	38
2010/11	26,688	52
2011/12	7,102	59
2012/13	8,245	85

With regard to point (iii), the Office of the Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal records the number of cases heard and determined in its Annual Reports, and this is detailed in the table below.

(iii) the number of employment tribunal hearings:

Year	Complaints heard and determined	
	Industrial Tribunals	Fair Employment Tribunal
2005/06	678	28
2006/07	659	47
2007/08	683	49
2008/09	628	31
2009/10	927	59
2010/11	1,303	35
2011/12	1,113	24
2012/13	1,424	17