

## Numbers

### 2014 ECF

Budget 2014 sets out a revised target for public service numbers of 287,000 by the end of this year. With serving numbers already below 288,000 at end Q4 2013, this is a lower net reduction than in previous years, reflecting the fact that a lot has already been achieved with the size of the public service now 10% smaller than in 2008 (320,000).

The appropriate path beyond 2014 will be considered as part of this year's Comprehensive Review of Expenditure, which will examine public spending and resource issues in the context of the fiscal parameters, service demands and the reform and efficiency opportunities arising from the new Public Service Reform Plan.

### *Health*

With regard to the **Health** service, it is required to deliver a modest 1% reduction in headcount during this year, which reflects a significant readjustment of the previously set target.

### *Education*

In **Education**, in acknowledgement of the growing needs in the classroom, serving numbers are actually profiled to increase by over 1,200 posts in 2014. As part of this, provision was made in the Budget for 960 additional resource teachers by end of 2014.

The approach to public service numbers reduction has been informed by financial necessity and also by recognition of the significant opportunity to reform work practices and business processes, to rationalise the number of state agencies and to introduce money-saving initiatives such as shared services. As a result, the public service today is more efficient and effective than before the crisis.

### End 2013 ECF Position

The net ECF outturn for 2013 is 780 over target at 287,780. This is a net reduction of 2,624 (c. 1%) since the end of 2012 (290,404). The Health and Justice sectors were 1,140 and 253 over ECF respectively, while the D/SP and the Local Authorities were over by 201 and 136.

The main sectors that were under ECF – Defence by 401, Education by 168, and Agriculture by 135.