

FOI DOF/2025-0083

Request

Re: Grade 6 General Service competition IRC306699.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in relation to the internal Grade 6 competition, IRC306699.

1. The number of applications submitted.
2. The breakdown of the number of applications by Department.
3. The breakdown of the number of applications by Grade.
4. The number of G6 General Service posts to be filled from the competition, broken down by Department.
5. The number of G6 General Service TPs across NICS, broken down by Department.
6. The number of G6 General Service vacancies across NICS, broken down by Department.

DoF Response

I can confirm the department holds some of the information requested.

1. The total number of applications for competition IRC306699 as of 16th February 2025 is 657.
2. The breakdown of the number of applications by Department are shown in the table below:

Department	No. of Applications by Department
Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs	130
Department of Education	29
Department for Communities	77
Department for the Economy	85
Department for Infrastructure	56
Department of Finance	113
Department of Health	57
Department of Justice	66
Public Prosecution Service	6
The Executive Office	38

3. The breakdown of the number of applications by substantive Grade are shown in the table below:

Grade	No. of Applications by Grade
Grade 6	2
Grade 7	468
Deputy Principal	169
Staff Officer	14
Executive Officer 1	2
Administrative Officer	2

4. Details of the total vacancies in each department is not held centrally by Department of Finance. Each Civil Service department is responsible for managing its resources – both financial and staff. Each department determines its individual workforce needs and is responsible for ensuring that any additional staffing resources are affordable. When a department identifies a vacancy that needs filled, the request is referred to NICS HR to initiate the process to fill the post. NICS HR liaises with all departments on an ongoing basis to seek to prioritise recruitment activity within allocated financial and staff resources.

As at the end of January 2025, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), the NICS HR caseload for General Service Grade 6 vacancies which may be filled from competition IRC306699 is 8. The breakdown of the vacancies by Department is shown in the table below.

Department	Number of vacancies for Competition IRC306699
Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs	4
Department for Communities	2
Department of Finance	1
Department of Health	1
Grand Total	8

5. The management and recording of temporary promotions are the responsibility of individual business areas in Departments. Temporary promotions can be for several different business reasons, such as covering vacant posts, special exercises etc.

The table below provides the total number of NICS staff on Temporary Promotion (TP) to General Service, Grade 6, by Department, as at the end of January 2025 (the most recent figures available at the time of the request).

Department	General Service, Grade 6 TPs (Headcount)
Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs	24
Department of Education	6
Department for Communities	17
Department for the Economy	8
Department for Infrastructure	5
Department of Finance	9
Department of Health	7
Department of Justice	16
Public Prosecution Service	1
Total	93

Source: HRConnect Month End January 2025.

6. Details of the total vacancies in each department is not held centrally by Department of Finance. Each Civil Service department is responsible for managing its resources – both financial and staff. Each department determines its individual workforce needs and is responsible for ensuring that any additional staffing resources are affordable. When a department identifies a vacancy that needs filled, the request is referred to NICS HR to initiate the process to fill the post. NICS HR liaises with all departments on an ongoing basis to seek to prioritise recruitment activity within allocated financial and staff resources.

As at the end of January 2025, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), the NICS HR caseload for General Service Grade 6 vacancies (including those which may be filled from competition IRC306699) was 34. The breakdown of the vacancies by Department is shown in the table below.

Department	General Service Grade 6 vacancies
Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs	16
Department of Education	3
Department for Communities	3
Department for Infrastructure	1
Department of Finance	4
Department of Health	6
Public Prosecution Service	1
Grand Total	34