

FOI DOF/2025-0356

**Request**

Re: Grade 7 competition IRC306697.

Regarding the above-named competition, I would appreciate the following information:

1. The number of candidates who proceeded to interview (to include those who were successful at appeal).
2. The number of candidates who passed the interview.
3. The number of candidates who failed the interview.
4. The current number of declared Grade 7 vacancies.

**DoF Response**

1-3. The information you have requested is being withheld as it is exempt under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 22(1) protects information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption, and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours maintaining the exemption in section 22(1) or disclosing the information. By applying Section 22 Exemption of the FOI Act, we are required to carry out a Public Interest Test. This can be found attached as a separate document (Annex B). The information will be published by 30th July 2025.

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 NICSHR to initiate the process to fill the post. NICSHR 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 May 2025, (the most recent figures available at the time of the request), NICSHR was managing a total caseload of 152 Grade 7 vacancies which may be filled from IRC306697.