

FOI DOF/2025-0655

**Request**

The recent North West AO competition was not advertised via the nics recruitment website on the current vacancy page but rather through the side panel under whats new.

1. I wish to ask why this was the case?
2. I also would like to know why this competition does not fall under other competition rules and has no aptitude test.
3. I would also like to know why the email address associated with this competition is [talentedog.com](https://www.talentedog.com) and not a usual civil service email related to hr connect
4. I would also like to know the number of applicants who applied for this competition.

**DoF response**

I can confirm the Department holds the information requested.

1. This competition was not run by HRConnect, therefore it wasn't advertised through the normal HRConnect channels.
2. This is a pilot programme and introduces several improvements over previous recruitment exercises.
3. See answer to question 1.
4. 4585 expressed an interest in this competition.

## Annex B - Internal Reviews

An Internal Review request examines the response based on applied exemptions, search adequacy, or response timeliness.

### It is not the following, which will be treated as specified:

- Questions asking for clarification on information provided: Will be treated as part of the original FOI request.
- Additional questions about the information in the response: Will be treated as a new FOI request.
- Questions about the subject not related to the original request: Will be treated as new FOI request.
- Questions regarding how a service operates or why a decision was made: Will be treated as normal business and responded to accordingly.
- Complaints or concerns raised in response to information provided: Will be treated in line with relevant complaints procedure.

### To make an Internal Review request:

- **Clearly state:** That you want an internal review of a previous FOI response and provide the necessary details.
- **Follow the timeline:** Be sure to submit your request within 40 working days of receiving the original response. If the Department has not responded at all, you have 40 working days after the original 20-day response period has passed.
- **Wait for a response:** The review is typically completed within 20 working days but can take up to 40 working days in exceptional circumstances. The Department should inform you of any delays.

### What the review includes

- A fresh decision based on a reconsideration of all relevant factors.
- An assessment of whether the request was handled correctly and if exemptions were applied appropriately.
- The review will be conducted by someone who was not involved in the original decision.

**If you wish to request an internal review, please email [foi@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:foi@finance-ni.gov.uk) or write to FOI/EIR Team, Department of Finance, 2nd Floor, Craigantlet Buildings, Stoney Road, Belfast, BT4 3SX.**