Public Interest Test
REASONS FOR APPLYING SECTION 43 (2) EXEMPTION

Ref No.	FOI/2026-0045		
Information	**Exemption Applied**	**Reasons for Disclosure**	**Reasons for Non-Disclosure**
5. The total cost of running the most recent NICS Grade 6 recruitment competition, including (where available) advertising, recruitment services, staff time, interview panels, assessment tools and administrative processing.	Section 43(2) – Prejudice to commercial interests	• To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority; • Disclosure would demonstrate a fair and transparent application and interview process.	• Although there is a public interest in the efficient use of public resources, disclosure of information relating to the cost of contract for the interview platform would prejudice the commercial interests of the Department. • There is a public interest in ensuring that private sector companies can compete on an equitable basis for public sector contracts and disclosure of commercially sensitive information would compromise the ability of companies to do so. • The disclosure of this information would undermine the tenderer's ability to successfully compete for future public sector tender competitions. • There is a risk that the tenderer would be discouraged from competing for future competitions if information identified as being commercially sensitive is released, thereby reducing the competitive market.
In balancing where the public interest lies, the Department has considered all the relevant factors in the public interest test and has reached the conclusion that the benefit to the public in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in releasing the information requested, as a result of the prejudices and losses that would potentially affect the Department.			

DECISION MAKER: John Cuthbert **DATE: 30/01/26**