ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0036

Request

IRC313585 - Director of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

Under the Freedom of Information Act please could the following questions be answered?

1) How many candidates applied for the Director role at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)?

2) How many candidates successfully applied for the Director role and were subsequently offered an interview?

3) Upon completion of the interview process, how many candidates passed the interview process?

4) Has the vacancy of Director been filled? If not, when is it expected it will be filled?

5) How many of the applicants were prior or current employees at the Northern Ireland Civil Service?

6) Can a List be provided of the scores of each candidate from highest to lowest at the interview for the Director role?

7) In this List, can it be stated which candidates were prior or current employees within the NICS?

8) Also, in this List, can it be stated which candidates declared themselves to have a disability?

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

1. There were 9 applications.

2. 4 candidates were invited to interview, however 2 candidates subsequently withdrew and did not attend interview.

3. 1 candidate passed the interview process.

4. Yes, the vacancy has been filled.

5. 4 of the applicants are current employees within the NICS.

6 & 7. This information is being withheld because it is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles of the Data Protection Act.
In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully and fairly. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and the Department is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Having considered all the information contained within the Legitimate Interest Test – lawful, fairness and transparency test (attached as a separate document – Annex C), the department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of the remaining third-party personal data falling within the scope of the request of which the requester is not the data subject.

8. None of the candidates attending interview declared a disability.