ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0037

Request

IRC315853 - Curatorial Grade D

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

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

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

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

4) How many vacancies are available and how many have been filled thus far?

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 Curatorial D 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 44 candidates who applied for the Curatorial D role IRC315853.

2. There were 15 candidates who were subsequently offered an interview.

3. There were 9 candidates who passed the interview process.

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 December 2025, (the most recent figures available at date of the request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 2 Curatorial D vacancies which may be filled from competition IRC315853.

   By the date of the request, 1 of those 2 vacancies had subsequently been filled.

5. There were 15 applicants who were current employees of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. There were 2 applicants who were prior employees of the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

6. 7. & 8. Out of the 9 candidates successful at interview there were 8 employees and no prior employees. Of the 3 who failed the interview there were no current employees and 1 prior employee. No candidates who attended interview declared themselves to have a disability.

   Please note: From the 15 candidates invited to interview 3 withdrew before interview.

   Some 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.