ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0097

Request

I request the following information in relation to competition IRC320688 - Deputy Principal, Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer (DALO) - Minister's Office NICS.

Information Requested

Please provide:
1. The total number of applications received for competition IRC320688.
2. The number of applicants invited to interview.
3. The number of interviewees who were successful and placed on the merit list.
4. The number of candidates who have been offered a post from this merit list to date.
5. The number of current suitable vacancies across the Northern Ireland Civil Service that could be filled from the IRC320688 merit list.

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds some of the information requested.

1. 41 applications were received.
2. 17 candidates were invited to interview.
3. A total of 8 candidates were successful and placed on the merit list for IRC320688.
4. As of 23rd February 2026, 2 candidates have been offered a post from this merit list.
5. 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 January 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 2 DP vacancies which may be filled from Competition IRC320688.

   It should be noted that these 2 vacancies on the NICSHR caseload at the end of January 2026 are the ones for which offers were made to successful candidates on the merit list for Competition IRC320688 (Q4 above refers.)