

FOI DOF/2026-0142

Request

Re: IRC320236

1. How many applied for this competition split by internal NICS staff and external to NICS?
2. How many candidates made it through to interview stage, again split by internal NICS staff and external to NICS?
3. How many candidates passed the interview, again split by internal NICS staff and external to NICS?

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

1. There were 63 applications for this recruitment competition, 18 were internal candidates and 45 were external candidates.
2. There were 5 candidates invited to interview.
Some of the information you have requested 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.

3. The information you have requested 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.

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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.