

FOI DOF/2026-0149

Request

Re: IRC308012

- 1) total number of applicants
- 2) number of applicants who proceeded to the interview stage
- 3) how many were successful in their interview and how many were placed with NICS as Grade 7 accountant straight after the competition and how any went onto the merit list for future positions.
- 4) what were the questions asked at the interview stage.

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

- 1) The total number of applicants was 217.
- 2) The number of applicants who proceeded to the interview stage was 138.
- 3) There were 50 successful applicants at interview; 34 were placed and two withdrew straight after the competition; and there were 14 candidates left on the merit list who were available for future positions.
- 4) This information is being withheld because it is exempt under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) exempts information whose disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation, including the department. The application of Section 43 (2) in this case requires a Public Interest Test (PIT) to be carried out, which can be found attached separately (Annex C). In carrying out the PIT the department contends that disclosure of the requested material would not be in the public interest.