

**Public Interest Test
REASONS FOR APPLYING SECTION 43 (2) EXEMPTION**

Ref No.	FOI DoF/2026-0223		
Information	Exemption Applied	Reasons for Disclosure	Reasons for Non-Disclosure
<p>7. How much money was TalentDog paid for running this competition?</p>	<p>Section 43(2) – Prejudice to commercial interests</p>	<p>To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority;</p> <p>It would facilitate accountability and transparency in the spending of public money.</p> <p>In this respect disclosure of the information requested would allow scrutiny and in doing so inform the public debate as to whether public funds are being put to the best possible use.</p> <p>There is a general public interest in the accountability, openness and transparency of government, and to promote public understanding.</p>	<p>Although there is a public interest in the efficient use of public resources, disclosure of information relating to competition costings would be likely to affect adversely the tenderer.</p> <p>There is a public interest in ensuring that private sector companies can compete on an equitable basis for public sector contracts and disclosure of commercially sensitive information would compromise the ability of companies to do so.</p> <p>The disclosure of this information would undermine the tenderer’s ability to successfully compete for future public sector tender competitions.</p> <p>There is a risk that the tenderer would be discouraged from competing for future competitions if information identified as being commercially sensitive is released, thereby reducing the competitive market.</p>
<p>In balancing where the public interest lies, the Department contends that public interest considerations against disclosure are predominant, and the public interest is better served by non-disclosure of any information regarding tenderer’s costings for recruitment competitions and the non-disclosure of the information at this time.</p>			
<p>Signed: John Cuthbert Date: 14/05/2026</p>			