

FOI DOF/2026-0206

Request

Re: Interviews

1. The interview panels for the recent appointment of a Head of the Skills and Education Group at the Department for the Economy.
2. The interview panel for the Interim Permanent Secretary at The Executive Office?

DoF response

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

1. This post is currently filled by a Temporary Promotion, however it will be filled substantively through an internal Grade 3 transfer as of 1st June 2026.
2. There was no separate competition for this interim post. The appointment was made from the Permanent Secretary recruitment merit list.

The interview panels for this recruitment were:

First Interview

Deirdre Toner – Chair (NI Civil Service Commissioner)
Jayne Brady (Head of the NI Civil Service)
Gordon Milligan (Independent Panel Member)

Second Interview

Deirdre Toner – Chair (NI Civil Service Commissioner)
Jayne Brady (Head of the NI Civil Service)
Gordon Milligan (Independent Panel Member)
Frances Ruane (Non-Executive Member of the NI Civil Service Board)
Sir Peter Schofield (Permanent Secretary, Department for Work & Pensions)