

FOI DOF/2026-0233

Request

RE: IRC320461 Senior Scientific Officer Competition

1. How many people were invited for interview for SSO competition IRC320461
2. When the interviews are due to end
3. How many vacancies there are
4. How many interview panels there are and how many people each panel is interviewing
5. How long a list of successful candidates will be live for
6. When candidates are likely to be notified of the outcome

DoF response

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

1. 177 people were invited for interview for SSO competition IRC320461.
2. Interviews are scheduled to end on 29 May 2026.
3. Details of the total vacancies in each department are 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 NICS HR to initiate the process to fill the post. NICS HR 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 April 2026 (the most recent figures available at the time) NICS HR was managing a caseload of 48 vacancies which may be filled from Competition IRC320461.
4. There are four interview panels. Three interview panels are scheduled to interview 44 applicants, and one interview panel is scheduled to interview 45 applicants.
5. It is presently intended that the merit list for this competition should remain extant for a period of one year. However, circumstances may arise in the future where it will be necessary to extend the currency of the merit list for a further period. The merit list will only be extended where cogent practical reasons for doing so arise.

6. Candidates will be notified of their interview outcome shortly after the interviews have concluded.