

FOI DOF/2026-0247

Request

RE: CSAB 683/26

1. The role of Michael Cooke in the NICS in the last 5 years?
2. If there was ever a working relationship between Michael Cooke and Debbie Sherlock/ Colette Jones?
3. I would be very grateful for the current employee status of Michael Cooke so that I can be assured of his independence?

DoF response

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

1. Employed within Department of Finance as a Director in NICS Human Resources until 7 February 2025.
2. The department holds information in relation to the request however this is being withheld as it is exempt under Section 40(2) as the information being requested constitutes personal data which requires explicit consent from individuals to process this information. Having considered all the information contained within the Legitimate Interest Test – also known as a Lawful, Fairness and Transparency Test - (Annex C), the department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of third-party personal data falling within the scope of the request of which the requester is not the data subject. Making an unrestricted disclosure of personal data for private interests could constitute a disproportionate and unwarranted level of interference with the individuals' rights and freedoms – particularly their right to privacy and family life under the Human Rights Act 1998.
3. Information not held