

Request

Re: competitions ICT Level 4 (IRC313809) & ICT Level 5 (IRC313639).

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information in relation to the following Northern Ireland Civil Service recruitment competitions launched in 2025:

- IRC313809 – ICT Level 4
- IRC313639 – ICT Level 5

For each competition, please provide:

1. The total number of applications received.
2. The number of candidates invited to each stage of the recruitment process (where applicable), including sift and interview stages.
3. The number of candidates who passed each stage.
4. The number of candidates placed on the final merit list.
5. The number of appointments made to date.
6. The current status of the competition (for example: active, completed, merit list active, closed, etc.).
7. The number of vacancies originally identified and any revised vacancy figures if applicable.
8. The expiry date of any merit/reserve list (if applicable).
9. Confirmation of whether any further appointments are expected to be made from these competitions.
10. If held, any current plans, indicative timescales, or expected dates for opening future ICT Level 4 and ICT Level 5 recruitment competitions.
11. For appointments made from each competition, please provide a breakdown of the number of successful candidates appointed into each Northern Ireland Civil Service department.
12. For appointments made from each competition, please provide a high-level breakdown of the broad role or functional area candidates were appointed into (for example: IT support, infrastructure, software development, cyber security, information security, governance/risk/compliance, service management, project delivery, applications, data, architecture, or equivalent internal categories if recorded).

13. Please provide the number of appointments made into each role/function category where this information is held.
14. If available, please provide a high-level breakdown of vacancies remaining to be filled from these competitions by department and broad role/function area.

DoF response

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

1. **IRC313809 (ICT 4)**

435 applications were received.

IRC313639 (ICT 5)

288 applications were received.

2. **IRC313809 (ICT 4)**

433 applications were sifted.

245 applicants passed the sift and were invited to interview

IRC313639 (ICT 5)

280 applications were sifted.

191 applicants passed the sift and were invited to interview.

3. **IRC313809 (ICT 4)**

245 applicants passed the sift and were invited to interview.

73 applicants were successful.

IRC313639 (ICT 5)

191 applicants passed the sift and were invited to interview.

65 applicants were successful.

4. **IRC313809 (ICT 4)**

73 candidates were placed on the final merit list.

IRC313639 (ICT 5)

65 candidates were placed on the final merit list.

5. **IRC313809 (ICT 4)**

As at the end of May 2026 (the most recent figures available at time of the request), 50 appointments had been made from competition IRC313809.

IRC313639 (ICT 5)

As at the end of May 2026 (the most recent figures available at time of the request), 58 appointments had been made from competition IRC313639.

Note that NICS HR regards an appointment to have been made when confirmation has been received that a successful candidate has reported for duty on the agreed start date.

6. **IRC313809 (ICT 4)**

At the date of this request the merit list for this competition was still live.

IRC313639 (ICT 5)

At the date of this request the merit list for this competition was still live.

7. Details of the total vacancies in each department is 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.

IRC313809 (ICT 4)

As at the time competition IRC313809 was launched (11th August 2025) NICS HR was managing a caseload of 4 vacancies which may be filled from the competition.

As at the end of May 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICS HR was managing a caseload of 17 vacancies which may be filled from IRC313809.

IRC313639 (ICT 5)

As at the time competition IRC313639 was launched (14th April 2025) NICS HR was managing a caseload of 4 vacancies which may be filled from the competition.

As at the end of May 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICS HR was managing a caseload of 5 vacancies which may be filled from IRC313639.

8. **IRC313809 (ICT 4)**

The merit list for competition IRC313809 is due to expire on 3 December 2026.

IRC313639 (ICT 5)

The merit list for competition IRC313639 is due to expire on 30 July 2026.

9. **IRC313809 (ICT 4)**

As at the date of the request, further appointments are expected to be made from competition IRC313809.

IRC313639 (ICT 5)

As at the date of the request, it is not known if further appointments will be made from competition IRC313639.

10. NICSHR does not hold this information.

11. The breakdown by Department of appointments made from competitions IRC313809 and IRC313639 is shown in the tables below

IRC313809

Department	Appointments made
DAERA	9
DfC	7
DfI	1
DoF	28
DoJ	3
PPS	2
Grand Total	50

IRC313639

Department	Appointments made
DAERA	13
DfC	5
DfE	3
DfI	3
DoF	27
DoJ	5
PPS	2
Grand Total	58

12. This information is not held.

13. This information is not held.

14. The breakdown by Department of vacancies remaining to be filled from these competitions (see Question 7) is shown in the tables below. Information is not held about the broad role/function area.

IRC313809

Department	Number of vacancies
DAERA	3
DfC	2
DfI	4
DoF	6
DoJ	2
Grand Total	17

IRC313869

Department	Number of vacancies
DfC	2
DoF	2
DoJ	1
Grand Total	5