

FOI DOF/2026-0296

Request

Re: DP competition IRC313542

I wish to request the following information:

1. How many applications were received for this competition?
2. How many candidates took part in the online tests?
3. How many job vacancies are there at this level?
4. How long do you intend to keep the merit list running for?

DoF response

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

1. The information you have requested is being withheld as it is exempt under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 22(1) protects information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption, and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours maintaining the exemption in section 22(1) or disclosing the information. By applying Section 22 Exemption of the FOI Act, we are required to carry out a Public Interest Test. This can be found attached as a separate document (Annex C). The information will be published in due course.
2. The information you have requested is being withheld as it is exempt under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 22(1) protects information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption, and I have considered whether the balance of the public interest favours maintaining the exemption in section 22(1) or disclosing the information. By applying Section 22 Exemption of the FOI Act, we are required to carry out a Public Interest Test. This can be found attached as a separate document (Annex C). The information will be published in due course.
3. 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 NICSHR to initiate the process to fill the post. NICSHR 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 May 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 212 vacancies which may be filled from competition IRC313542.

4. It is intended that the merit list for this competition will remain active for a period of two years. However, circumstances may arise in the future where it will be necessary to extend the merit list for a further period. The merit list will only be extended where cogent practical reasons for doing so arise.

Annex B - Internal Reviews

An Internal Review request examines the response based on applied exemptions, search adequacy, or response timeliness.

It is not the following, which will be treated as specified: