

FOI DOF/2026-0317

Request

RE: IRC313542 - Deputy Principal - General Service

1. the number of candidates who applied for the general service deputy principal competition IRC313542
2. how many applicants passed the assessment test for the general service deputy principal competition IRC313542
3. what was the highest score that passed the assessment tests for the general service deputy principal competition IRC313542
4. what was the lowest score that passed the assessment tests for the general service deputy principal competition IRC313542
5. what was the test merit position for the lowest score that passed the assessment tests for the general service deputy principal competition IRC313542
6. of the top 1000 candidates that passed all tests and proceeded to sift/interview how many passed the sift
7. of the top 1000 candidates that passed all tests and proceeded to sift/interview how many have been called to interview
8. the number and location of all DP vacancies, broken down by Department
9. is there any plans for an internal recruitment for DP to retain experience within Departments
10. why was the recent G7 competition internal and not external, why was this approach not used for the DP competition and who makes this decision

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).
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3. The highest score that passed the assessment tests was 158.59.
4. The lowest score that passed the assessment tests was 72.82.
5. The test merit position for the lowest score that passed the tests is 3552.
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8. 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. The breakdown by Department and town is shown in the table below.

Town	DAERA	DE	DfC	DfE	DfI	DoF	DoH	DoJ	TEO	Grand Total
Antrim	1									1
Armagh									1	1
Ballykelly	19									19
Ballymena	2									2
Bangor		16								16

Town	DAERA	DE	DfC	DfE	DfI	DoF	DoH	DoJ	TEO	Grand Total
Belfast	46		18	23	28	8	11	16	4	154
Carrickfergus								2		2
Coleraine					1					1
Cookstown					1					1
Derry-Londonderry	3		1							4
Downpatrick	7									7
Enniskillen	1									1
Lisburn	2									2
Omagh	1									1
Grand Total	82	16	19	23	30	8	11	18	5	212

9. There are no current plans for an internal DP competition.

10. The G7 competition was run internally due to the budget situation and the urgent need given the number of TPs at this level at that time. This was agreed by the Perm Sec. It is standard practice that general service competitions default to external recruitment therefore the DP competition was run in this way.