

FOI DOF/2026-0335

Request

RE: IRC323971 - Trainee Chartered Accountant (EO1)

1. How many candidates were invited to interview?
2. How many candidates attended their interview?
3. How many candidates were successful at interview?
4. How many interview panels were there?
5. How many vacancies are there?
6. What locations are the vacancies located in?
7. How many vacancies are there in each location?
8. How are offers made based on merit list position? For example, if there are 3 candidates across 3 panels and each candidate was placed 1a, 1b & 1c, does 1a get offered a role ahead of 1b and then 1b ahead of 1c or do all three candidates receive an offer at the same time?

DoF response

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

1. The number of candidates who were invited to interview was 56.
2. The number of candidates who attended their interview was 46.
3. The number of candidates who were successful at interview was 39.
4. There were 3 interview panels.
5. 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 7 vacancies which may be filled from Competition IRC323971.

6. These vacancies were based in Belfast and Ballykelly.

7. The breakdown by location is shown in the table below.

Town	Total
Ballykelly	1
Belfast	6
Grand Total	7

8. HRConnect will allocate a candidate (or candidates) to a vacancy (or vacancies) in the order listed on the Merit List, with those candidates awarded the same merit order position by each Panel (e.g. 1a, 1b and 1c) being offered appointment simultaneously.