

FOI DOF/2026-0369

Request

RE: IRC 313542 Deputy Principal General Service Competition

1. How many applications were made to the competition?
2. How many applicants passed the online assessment stage?
3. How many applicants of the first 1000 passed the sift stage to gain an invite to interview?
4. How many applicants of the first 500 passed the sift stage to gain an invite to interview?
5. Of the applicants that did not pass the sift stage how many of them requested a review of decision?
6. Of the number that requested a review of decision how many were successful?
7. How many panels were involved in the sift stage?
8. How many people were on each sift panel?
9. How many DP vacancies are expected to be initially filled by this competition and in which departments?

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).
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).
3. 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).

4. 219 of the first 500 passed the sift stage and progressed to interview.
5. There were 186 sift reviews.
6. 3 sift reviews were overturned.
7. This competition used one sift panel comprising of ten panel members.
8. See response to 7 above.
9. 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.

As at the end of June 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICS HR was managing a caseload of 200 vacancies which may be filled from Competition IRC313542. The breakdown by Department is shown in the table below.

Department	Number of vacancies
DAERA	83
DE	16
DfC	20
DfE	15
DfI	29
DoF	8
DoH	11
DoJ	12
TEO	6
Grand Total	200