

FOI DOF/2026-0461

Request

RE: Competition IRC324388 (IRC318518) – Operational Delivery Apprentice Scheme

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request anonymised information relating to the allocation of successful candidates from the relevant Administrative Officer recruitment competition.

I am not seeking the names, addresses, employee numbers or any other personal identifying information relating to individual candidates.

Specifically, I request:

1. The number of successful candidates allocated to each office location.
2. The ranking range of successful candidates allocated to each office location
3. The number of candidates allocated to each location who ranked below my son's ranking number
 - Name: [REDACTED]
 - Rank: [REDACTED]
 - Applicant number is [REDACTED]
4. Any policy, guidance, criteria or decision-making framework used when allocating successful candidates to locations.
5. Any equality impact assessment, disability-related guidance or reasonable adjustment policy applied during the allocation process.

If any part of this request is considered exempt on personal data grounds, please provide the information in anonymised or aggregated form and provide such information as can properly be disclosed rather than refusing the request in its entirety.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Clarification received on 19th Aug 2026:

- Name: [REDACTED]
- Rank: [REDACTED]
- Applicant number is [REDACTED]

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

1.

Area	No. candidates allocated to date
1	139
2	35
3	11
4	30
5	10
6	35
7	10
8, 9 & 10	9

2 & 3. This information is withheld because it is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018.

In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully and fairly.

Having considered all the information contained within the Legitimate Interest Test – lawful, fairness and transparency test (attached as a separate document – Annex C), the department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of third-party personal data falling within the scope of the request of which the requester is not the data subject.

4. The Candidate Information Booklet for this competition stated: *'In your application form, you may **select up to three** travel to work areas where you are prepared to work. **You should ensure that you can, and are willing to travel to the location.** If successful, and during allocation you will only be considered for a post in **one** of your selected areas. If appointed, your name will be removed from the list of successful applicants for your other selected areas.'*

All successful candidates at interview were added to a merit list which includes the locational preferences indicated by the candidate on their application.

Candidates are allocated to vacancies as they arise, in merit score order, taking into account of any location and/or working pattern preferences indicated on the candidates application, if applicable.

5. Please refer to point 4 above for information regarding how candidates are allocated adhering to merit principle. Successful candidates who receive an offer of a post are advised in their offer letter **'If you have a disability and require any reasonable adjustments in the workplace please contact HRConnect to discuss your requirements.'**