

FOI DOF/2026-0493

Request

Re: Competition IRC323971 – Trainee Chartered Accountant.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

1. The total number of applications received for IRC323971.
2. The number of applicants who met the minimum essential eligibility criteria.
3. The total number of applicants who indicated that they wished to participate in the NICS Guaranteed Interview Scheme (GIS).
4. Of those GIS applicants:
 - how many met the minimum essential eligibility criteria;
 - how many were invited to interview; and
 - how many subsequently passed the interview.
5. The total number of applicants invited to interview, including both GIS and non-GIS applicants.
6. The number of applicants who passed the interview and were placed on the merit list.
7. The interview pass mark and, if applicable, any other minimum qualifying scores which candidates were required to achieve.
8. The highest, lowest and average overall interview scores achieved by candidates, if this information is held.
9. The number of candidates appointed or offered posts from the competition to date.
10. Copies of any recorded guidance, instructions or criteria used specifically in relation to the operation of the Guaranteed Interview Scheme for IRC323971, including how GIS candidates were progressed to interview.
11. Whether any shortlisting criterion, test, ranking exercise or other selection mechanism was used to determine which eligible applicants progressed to interview. If so, please provide the relevant qualifying threshold/cut-off and indicate how the Guaranteed Interview Scheme was applied at this stage.

I appreciate that some information concerning IRC323971 has already been released under **FOI DOF/2026-0335**. Where any of the information requested above has already been disclosed in that response, I would be happy for you simply to refer me to the relevant part of the published response rather than reproduce it. I am seeking aggregate recruitment information only and am not requesting any information that would identify individual candidates.

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

1. There were 558 applications received.
2. There were 56 applicants who met the minimum essential eligibility criteria.
3. There were 65 applicants who indicated that they wished to participate in the NICS Guaranteed Interview Scheme (GIS).
4. Of those GIS applicants:
 - 7 met the minimum essential eligibility criteria;
 - 7 were invited to interview; and
 - 7 subsequently passed the interview.
5. There were 56 applicants invited to interview, including both GIS and non-GIS applicants.
6. There were 39 applicants who passed the interview and were placed on the merit list.
7. At online aptitude test, candidates were required to reach at least the minimum score on each test as outlined in the document provided at **Annex C** 'Understanding your scores – Chartered Accountant 2026'. The interview pass mark was 60.
8. The highest, lowest and average overall interview scores achieved by candidates was as follows:

Competition	Max	Min	Average
IRC323971	97	24	75.1

9. As at the date of request, no candidates have been appointed, and 4 candidates have been offered positions.
10. Guidance in relation to the operation of the Guaranteed Interview Scheme for IRC323971 can be found at page 21 of the Candidate Information Booklet attached at **Annex D**.
11. To be eligible to progress to interview candidates were required to pass all three online aptitude tests along with satisfying the eligibility criteria for the competition. The Guaranteed Interview Scheme was applied in line with the provisions at Annex 10 of the [NICS Recruitment Policy and Procedures Manual](#)