Annex C

REASONS FOR APPLYING SECTION 22 EXEMPTION

Ref No.	**FOI DOF/2026-0500**		
Information	**Exemption Applied**	**Reasons for Disclosure**	**Reasons for Non-Disclosure**
IRC 313542 Deputy Principal General Service **Deputy Principal (DP)** General Service Recruitment Competition (most recent external/internal volume campaign). IRC324802 SO **Staff Officer (SO)** General Service Recruitment Competition (most recent external/internal volume campaign). 1. The total number of applicants who registered for and sat the initial online test stages for both the SO and DP competitions. 2. A statistical breakdown of the pass/fail rates (or progression rates to the next stage) for these initial online tests, categorised by the following demographic groups: a) Age bands: 16-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-54, 55-59, and 60+. b) Gender: Male and Female. c) Candidate Status: Internal NICS candidates versus External candidates. d) Intersectional data: The pass rates, fail rates, or progression rates of candidates within each of the age bands listed above, cross-referenced and broken down by: ▪ Internal versus External candidate status; and ▪ Male versus Female candidates e) please include data for internal female candidates within the following age bands: 50-54, 55-59 and 60+.	Section 22 Intended for future publication	• To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority; • There is a general public interest in the accountability, openness and transparency of government, and to promote public understanding.	• Information regarding each stage of this recruitment competition will be published in due course on OpenDataNI. • As the information requested is of interest to the wider public, it is important that it can be accessed by all interested parties at the same time, it should be equally available to all, not given to some people before others • Publishing the information at this stage would require staff to spend time on accelerating publication rather than other activities in the public interest

In balancing where the public interest lies, my view is that the public interest considerations against disclosure are predominant and the public interest would be better served by non-disclosure of the information at this time.

Signed: A McVeigh **Date:** 07/09/26