ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0497

Request

Re: Competition IRC324802 – SO General Service.

1. How many applicants were there for this competition?

2. How many applicants passed the online test?

3. How many applicants out of the top scoring 1000 from the online tests were invited to interview?

4. What was the test score at the cut off for top 1000?

5. What was the percentage of applicants from the top 1000 who failed the sift?

6. How many staff officer vacancies are there at that grade in NICS when the last count was done?

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

1-3. 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. 114.13

5. 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).

6. 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 July 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 249 vacancies which may be filled from IRC324802.