

**FOI DOF/2022-0234**

**Request**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information in respect of the Administration Officer Competition - IRC240709 - which was launched in 2019.

I recently completed the verification tests and have been added to the merit list to fill AO vacancies which may arise. My merit position was 2537.

I would like know

1. What was the most recent number on the merit list that has been offered employment?
2. For area 7 - what was the most recent number on the merit list that has been offered employment? How many in front of me?
3. How many people have selected area 7 for Standard working pattern?
4. How many people have selected area 7 for Alternate working pattern?
5. What was the latest merit number to be positioned in AWP and SWP?
6. How many positions are currently vacant for area 7?
7. How long is it envisioned that this competition will it run to/when will it end?

**DoF Response**

I can confirm the Department holds some of the information requested.

This competition allowed applicants to select a range of location and working pattern preferences when applying for the competition.

1. As at the end of June 2022, regardless of location or working pattern preference, the last candidate in merit order who has been offered employment is in competition merit list position 5,131.
2. As at the end of June 2022, for Area 7 and:
  - working pattern preference 'Alternative Working Pattern', the last candidate in merit order who has been offered employment is 5,130;

- working pattern preference ‘Standard Working Pattern’, the last candidate in merit order who has been offered employment is 1,670.

You have selected Area 7 and Standard Working Pattern. As at the end of June there are 39 candidates ahead of you on the merit list who have selected Area 7 and Standard Working Pattern.

3. As at the end of June 2022, there are 224 candidates remaining on the merit list with application preference Area 7 and “Standard Working Pattern”.
4. As at the end of June 2022, there are 46 candidates remaining on the merit list with application preference Area 7 and “Alternate Working Pattern”.
5. As at the end of June 2022:
  - the last candidate in merit order from this competition who has been offered an “Alternative Working Pattern” post, regardless of location preference, is in merit list position 5,131.
  - the last candidate in merit order from this competition who has been offered a “Standard Working Pattern post”, regardless of location preference, is in merit list position 2,368.
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 it 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 2022, NICS HR was managing a caseload of 78 General Service AO vacancies in Area 7, which encompasses Strabane, Londonderry and Limavady, as detailed in the Candidate Information Booklet for Competition IRC240709.

7. It is NICS policy that appointments from high volume corporate led competitions, such as the AO, will not be made where the order of merit is more than two years old unless there are cogent practical reasons for extending the period. At this point in time, the AO competition is due to close on 31 December 2022. The competition was recently extended by 3 months for cogent practical business reasons.