

FOI DOF/2022-0342

Request

Administration Officer Competition - IRC240709

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 to 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.

1. As at the end of August 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 is 5,131.
2. As at the end of August 2022:
 - For application preferences of location Area 7 and working pattern 'Alternative Working Pattern', the last candidate in merit order who has been offered employment is 5,130.
 - For application preferences of location Area 7 and working pattern preference 'Standard Working Pattern', the last candidate in merit order who has been offered employment is 2,072.

Your application preferences are Area 7 and Standard Working Pattern. As at the end of August 2022 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 August 2022, there are 223 candidates remaining on the merit list with application preference Area 7 and “Standard Working Pattern”.
4. As at the end of August 2022, there are 45 candidates remaining on the merit list with application preference Area 7 and “Alternate Working Pattern”.
5. As at the end of August 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 2,367.
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 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 August 2022, NICSHR was managing a caseload of 70 General Service AO vacancies in Area 7, which encompasses Strabane, Londonderry and Limavady, as detailed in the Candidate Information Booklet for Competition IRC240709.

7. Information you have requested is held by the Department but is exempt under Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and the department is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

This information was provided in the response to your previous FOI request DOF/2022-0234, which can be found here:

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/node/59375>