

FOI DOF/2022-0279

Request

Re: AO Competition – IRC240709

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?
3. **For area 7** - how many people are in front of me to be placed?
4. **For area 7** – how many AO posts are currently vacant and in which departments?
5. When the competition will close will all people on the merit list be placed before it closes?

DoF Response

I can confirm the department holds the information requested.

Information provided below is the position as at end of September 2022.

1. 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. 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
3. You have selected Area 7 and Standard Working Pattern. There are 113 candidates ahead of you on the merit list who have selected Area 7 and Standard Working Pattern.
4. 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.

At the end of September 2022 the caseload of General Service AO vacancies NICS HR is proceeding to fill from Competition IRC240709 in Area 7, which encompasses Strabane, Londonderry and Limavady, is 78. A breakdown by Department is set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Department	Headcount
DAERA	8
DE	10
DfC	50
DoF	7
DoJ	2
PPS	1
Total	78

5. 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 three months for cogent practical business reasons. At this time there is no way to confirm if all people on the merit list will be placed before it closes.