

FOI DOF/2024-0295

**Request**

Re: DAERA NIEA WMU Senior Scientific Officer (SSO) Competition IRC265934

Competition IRC265934, DAERA NIEA SSO was due to expire on 26 November 2022. DAERA NIEA Water Management Unit sought and gained an extension to Competition IRC265934 for a period of no less than 1 year to accommodate prospective additional posts and further appointments were made.

- A. My understanding is that Competition lists cannot be extended without there being a fully approved post to be filled with Funding and Headcount processes etc all in place. Please confirm if my understanding on this is correct or, if I am incorrect, please define what criteria need to be met to allow Competition list extension.
- B. Regarding DAERA NIEA WMU Senior Scientific Officer (SSO) Competition IRC265934, please confirm which posts were fully approved at the time of the Competition extension?

**DoF Response**

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

- A. Each department will have their own approval processes to fill vacant posts. When departmental approval is received, business areas are currently required to submit a Funding & Headcount form to allow DoF NICSHR to consider an extension request.
- B. There were five extensions to the DAERA NIEA WMU Senior Scientific Officer (SSO) Competition IRC265934. See below for details of each extension and the approved vacancies at the time of each extension.

Extension 1 – Extension approved on 28/11/22 with revised closing date of 26/02/23. IRC287300 - DAERA, Integrated Catchment Planning.

Extension 2 – Extension approved on 13/02/23 with revised closing date of 23/05/23. IRC289456 - DAERA, RED, River Basin District 1 & IRC275173 - DAERA Agri-Environment Policy Development.

Extension 3 – Extension approved on 17/04/23 with revised closing date of 23/08/23. IRC289456 - DAERA, RED, River Basin District 1 & IRC275173 - DAERA Agri-Environment Policy Development.

Extension 4 – Extension approved on 21/08/23 with revised closing date of 23/11/23. IRC296642 - DAERA, RED, Water Regulation.

Extension 5 – Extension approved on 02/11/23 with revised closing date of 23/12/23. IRC296642 - DAERA, RED, Water Regulation.