

FOI DOF/2024-0366

**Request**

Re: EO1 Vacancies

Please can you provide the details as follows following the headcount/funding exercise issued out on 19/06/24 with a deadline of 02/07/24.

1. The total number of general service EO1 vacancies now identified to NICSHR following this headcount broken down by Department, and further identified as SWP or AWP.
2. The total number of general service EO1 vacancies now identified to NICSHR following this headcount broken down by Areas listed in the candidate information booklet for IRC265807 and further identified as SWP or AWP.
3. When the information gather from this headcount/funding exercise and the resulting list of identified vacancies was provided to your partner HRConnect and what instructions have been given to start filling vacancies.
4. The timescales NICSHR has identified and planned going forward in progressing this competition and ultimately now matching candidates from the merit lists to the identified vacancies now held.

**DoF Response**

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

1. and 2.

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 end of August 2024 (the most recent figures available at the time of request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 261 General Service Executive Officer 1 vacancies of which 175 may be filled from Competition IRC268507. The

breakdowns of these 175 vacancies by Department, working pattern and Area are provided in the tables below.

Competition IRC265807 – vacancies broken down by Department

| Department         | Permanent – full time (8-8) (AWP) | Permanent – full time (SWP) | Grand Total |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| DAERA              |                                   | 32                          | 32          |
| DE                 |                                   | 3                           | 3           |
| DfC                | 26                                | 60                          | 86          |
| DfE                |                                   | 6                           | 6           |
| DfI                |                                   | 20                          | 20          |
| DoF                |                                   | 12                          | 12          |
| DoH                |                                   | 2                           | 2           |
| DOJ                |                                   | 10                          | 10          |
| PPS                |                                   | 3                           | 3           |
| TEO                |                                   | 1                           | 1           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>26</b>                         | <b>149</b>                  | <b>175</b>  |

Competition IRC265807 – vacancies broken down by area in the candidate information booklet

| Area                        | Permanent – full time (8-8) (AWP) | Permanent – full time (SWP) | Grand Total |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 – Belfast                 | 11                                | 107                         | 118         |
| 2 - Derry/Londonderry       | 8                                 | 24                          | 32          |
| 3 - Craigavon               |                                   | 1                           | 1           |
| 4 - Coleraine               |                                   | 5                           | 5           |
| 5 - Omagh & Strabane        | 1                                 | 2                           | 3           |
| 6 - Newry & Banbridge       | 6                                 | 3                           | 9           |
| 7 - Ballymena               |                                   | 1                           | 1           |
| 8 - Cookstown & Magherafelt |                                   | 2                           | 2           |
| 9 - Dungannon               |                                   | 4                           | 4           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>          | <b>26</b>                         | <b>149</b>                  | <b>175</b>  |

3. and 4.

The allocation details (candidates matched to declared vacancies) were provided to the service delivery partner, HRConnect, on 20 August. HRConnect then initiated the process to progress the filling of the vacancies, with preplacement letters starting to issue from 27 August. As at 2 September, no offer letters had issued to candidates. It is anticipated that offer letters will start to issue during September 2024.