

FOI DOF/2024-0348

Request

Re: EO1 Court Clerk competition IRC301862

Please provide the following information regarding the recent NICS EO1 Court Clerk recruitment competition:

1. Total Number of Applications in competition.
2. Total Number of Aptitude Tests completed and subsequent total number of those on the Merit List.
3. Breakdown of working area preference selected by candidates (e.g. Belfast area, Omagh etc).
4. Total Number of Interviews offered during first tranche as of 19 August 2024.
5. Total Number of Vacancies to be filled across Northern Ireland broken down by area as of 19 August 2024.

DOF Response

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

1. The total number of Applications in the competition was 1360.
2. The total number of Aptitude Tests completed was 850, the number on the Test Merit List is 610.
3. Candidates could select up to three working preference areas. The breakdown for preference of working area selected by candidates is as follows:
 - Belfast Area – 967
 - Antrim, Coleraine, Ballymena and Limavady – 475
 - Newtownards and Downpatrick – 455
 - Armagh, Newry, Craigavon and Lisburn – 339
 - Londonderry and Magherafelt – 328
 - Dungannon, Omagh, Enniskillen and Strabane – 244
4. Total number of interviews offered during the first tranche, as of 19 August 2024, is 150.

5. 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 that 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 July 2024, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 3 vacancies which may be filled from the EO1 Court Clerk Competition IRC301862. All 3 vacancies are based in Londonderry Courthouse, Londonderry.