

[REDACTED]

9th October 2015

Re: FOI request No. 2015/268

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this body:

A full list of the Public Private Partnership Projects initiated by the department from Quarter 2 2010 to Quarter 2 2015, the names of the private companies involved, the costs - nominal and projected total – of the projects, and the cost of the interest paid on each project.

I, Stephanie Goode, Higher Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 9th October 2015.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision. This explanation has the following parts:

1. a schedule of all of the records covered by your request;
2. an explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied, and
3. a statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these three parts in turn.

1. Schedule of records

A schedule is enclosed with this letter which shows the document that this body considers relevant to your request.

2. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

It is understood that your reference to 'Public Private Partnership Projects initiated by the department' is taken to mean when the School Bundle was announced by the Minister for Education and Skills. In that context, information gathered for the purpose of this Freedom of Information request relates to School Bundles 4 and 5.

You should note that a number of the details sought in respect of Schools Bundle 5 do not exist at present. It is not expected that records in this regard will be created until the outcome

of the tender process is known. Therefore, I am refusing your request for this information under Section 15 (1)(a) which states that a head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where -

'the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken.'

However, I would refer you to the National Development Finance Agency's website where the names of the private companies involved in the tender competition for School Bundle 5 are listed.

In addition, your request for information regarding the cost of the interest paid on each project is refused under Section 15 (1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Under Section 15 (1)(c), a head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where -

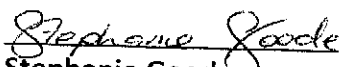
'in the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason of the number or nature of the records concerned or the nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of the records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned.'

Rights of appeal

You may appeal this decision within 4 weeks of receiving this letter which will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department. In the event that you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. Payment should be made by way of personal cheque or postal money order made payable to the accountant the Department of Education and Skills. Please note the Department of Education and Skills no longer accept cheque payments from business users. For further information regarding payment methods for business users, please email foi@education.gov.ie

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 057 932 4415.

Yours sincerely,


Stephanie Goode
Higher Executive Officer