



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Social Fund

23rd September 2016

Re: FOI request 2016/317

Dear ,

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

- 1.) *Details of all funding records provided directly or indirectly to the LMETB for the years 2014, 5, 6 where any part of the funding originates with the European Union*
- 2.) *Details of all funding applications in progress where any part of the funding will originate with the European Union*

I, Catherine Ryan, Higher Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 23rd September 2016.

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, it shows the documents that this body considers relevant to your request. Copies of all the documents listed in the schedule are enclosed with this letter.

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

1.) Details of all funding records provided directly or indirectly to the LMETB for the years 2014, 5, 6 where any part of the funding originates with the European Union

Firstly, for clarification, the LMETB was established on the 1st July 2013 encompassing the former Meath VEC, Louth VEC and the FÁS Training Centres. SOLAS, the State Organisation with responsibility for funding, planning and coordinating Further Education and Training (FET) in Ireland provides grants to Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and other Further Education and Training providers for the delivery of planned places for Further Education and Training. Under the ESF Human Capital Investment Operational Programme 2007-2013, (HCI OP 2007-13, the agreement between Ireland and the EU), the following Activities were co-funded:- Skills Training, Back to Education Initiative, Youthreach, Adult Literacy, VTOS, and Third Level Access.

All the documents provided (enclosed) are extracts from the EU Structural Funds database which is utilised to submit requests for European Social Funding (ESF) to the EU Commission. The names of the former bodies - Louth VEC and FÁS Training Centre - appear on the extracts from the database. The enclosed records relate to the dates listed in your request. The expenditure shown on the records relates to the total expenditure for the various programmes operated by the LMETB under the ESF programme HCI OP 2007-2013, i.e. Skills Training, Back to Education Initiative, Youthreach, Adult Literacy, VTOS, and Third Level Access. Because the Activities are co-funded by the National Exchequer and the European Social Fund, the EU Commission only refunds part (50%) of the total expenditure as shown on the records.

2.) Details of all funding applications in progress where any part of the funding will originate with the European Union

In relation to the second part of your request, please note that there are currently no ESF funding applications in progress for 2016 (under the current Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020).

As requested in your letter under background, the LMETB may, (but I have no direct knowledge of same), receive European Union funding from other sources that may be channeled through the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the Northern & Western Regional Assembly <http://nwra.ie/> or SOLAS www.solas.ie.

3. Right of appeal

You may appeal this decision. 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 (€10 for medical card holders) for processing the appeal. Payment should be made by way of personal cheque or postal money order made payable to the accountant in 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

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. However, the making

of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Publication

All non-personal FOI requests will be recorded on an FOI disclosure log which will be published on the Department of Education and Skills website in due course.

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact me by telephone at 01-8892078.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Ryan
Higher Executive Officer