

Al. Fíor-ghníomhaíocht Stáit  
Bóthar Phort Laoise  
An Tulach Mhór  
Co. Uíbh Fhailí  
R35 Y2N5



Department of Education and Skills  
Portlaoise Road  
Tullamore  
Co. Offaly  
R35 Y2N5

25 February, 2016

[REDACTED]

**Re: Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 – Ref: FOI 2016/22**

[REDACTED]

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

You requested the following records held by this body:

*May I have a copy of all information in relation to the proposal to open a Post Primary school in Firhouse, Dublin 24 during the years 2017-2018, as detailed in file <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/Building-Works/Major-Projects/New-Schools-2017-2018.pdf> Information to include justification for schools regarding pupil numbers and site selection options.*

I attach a schedule of documents which outlines the documents that are considered relevant to your request. These documents are held in Forward Planning Section and Site Acquisition and Property Management Section of the Department of Education and Skills. The schedule outlines the reasons for non-release or part release. The decision to release these documents was made by the undersigned on this day under Section 8 of the Acts.

Some of the records contain information in relation to matters which do not come within the scope of your request and such records have been part granted, with the text not relevant to your request redacted.

At the outset, it may be useful to set out some background as to how the requirement for new school provision is determined. The Department uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) to identify where the pressure for school places will arise. The GIS uses information from the Central Statistics Office, Ordnance Survey Ireland and the Department of Social Protection in addition to the Department's own databases in relation to school enrolments. GIS allows this information to be plotted on to the mapping system and analysed in its spatial context.

Forward Planning Section examined all post primary feeder areas in the country to establish where the projected increase in post primary enrolments manifests itself. Initially the enrolment for the 2013/2014 school year was recorded for each feeder area. This detailed enrolment for each feeder area was then plotted on two scenarios:

- 100% intake pattern
- Current intake pattern.

The 100% intake pattern assumes that all primary 6th class pupils in an area will transfer to a post primary school in that area. The current intake pattern presumes that actual enrolment patterns in the future will follow historic trends which may be above or below 100%.

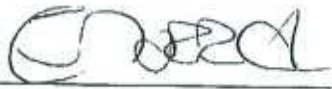
In order to project the increase or decrease in each feeder area to 2017/18 the 2013/2014 enrolment was used as the base. It was assumed that all leaving certificate pupils will leave the system and 6th class from local primary schools will feed into the system either at 100% intake or according to the current intake pattern. In this way two scenarios were developed for each area and the figures recorded in a spreadsheet.

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you can make an appeal in relation to this matter, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 or by e-mail to [foi@education.gov.ie](mailto:foi@education.gov.ie). You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) 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.

Should you wish to discuss the above, you can contact me by telephone on 057 9325403.

Yours sincerely



Liz Marriott  
Executive Officer  
Forward Planning Section