



Department of  
Education and Skills  
Cornamaddy  
Athlone  
Co. Westmeath



Re: FOI request 2016/29

17<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to your request for access to information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which was received by this Department on the 22/01/2016:

*I am requesting all documentation under the Freedom of Information Act between the Department of Education and Co. Offaly VEC / Tullamore College pertaining to a French inspection in January 2007. This is an urgent request, as there is currently an investigation underway and these documents could contain important relevant evidence*

I have made a final decision to refuse your request on the 17/02/2016 under the provisions of section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014:

*15 (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where-*

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

The purpose of my letter is to explain my decision. The explanation has the following parts:

1. Searches undertaken
2. Decision
3. Right of Appeal

#### 1. Searches Undertaken

Listed below are the steps I have undertaken to locate the records sought and the outcome of these steps: -

- A search of records both electronic and hard copy records held by the Inspectorate was conducted, however no relevant records could be found.

## 2. Decision

Above I have outlined the searches undertaken by this Department, and the result of those searches. In accordance with the requirements of section 15(1)(a), I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify and locate the records requested.

## 3. Right of Appeal

In the event that you are unhappy with this decision you may appeal it. 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 & Skills, Marlborough Street, D01 RC96 or by e-mail to [foi@education.gov.ie](mailto:foi@education.gov.ie). Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. Payment should be made by way of postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Department of Education & Skills. If you wish to make payment by electronic means please contact [foi@education.gov.ie](mailto:foi@education.gov.ie) for further instructions.

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.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me at 087 2601032.

Yours sincerely,

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Caitríona Ní Bhriain  
FOI Decision Maker (Inspectorate)  
Department of Education and Skills