

26 August 2016

[REDACTED]

Re: FOI request 2016/281

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this Department, requesting

"all records and communication between the Department of Education to and from IDA Ireland between January 1 2016 to the present date regarding the impact of Ireland's schooling/education system and facilities on the IDA's aims to secure investment and attract executives to Ireland. I'm looking for records, including, but not limited to, notes, memoranda, correspondence, e-mails of contacts, diaries, briefing material, minutes of meetings, agendas, background papers, and letters, relating to these matters."

I, Joanne Tobin have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 26 August 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. It describes each document and refers to the sections of the FOI Act which apply to prevent release. The schedule also refers you to sections of the detailed explanation given under heading 2 below, which are relevant to the document in question. It also gives you a summary and overview of the decision as a whole.

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

The sections of the Act which can apply to deny access to documents are known as its exemption provisions.

Document number X from the IDA has been refused under s. 29(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (extracted below).

29. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request—

(a) if the record concerned contains matter relating to the deliberative processes of an FOI body (including opinions, advice, recommendations, and the results of consultations, considered by the body, the head of the body, or a member of the body or of the staff of the body for the purpose of those processes),

Accordingly, a copy of the records granted is now enclosed including a copy of the schedule to these records.

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 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.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 01-8892447.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Tobin
Assistant Principal