

[REDACTED]

23 August 2016

Re: FOI request 2016/284

Dear [REDACTED]

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

*The number and nature of each physical assault on both primary and secondary teachers in each of the past three years.*

*This would include the amount paid by the Department arising from any compensation cases taken by teachers.*

*The number of teachers who have taken 'stress leave' in both primary and secondary schools in each of the past four years.*

*I am also seeking a breakdown of the reasons for 'stress leave' being taken in each case.*

I, Eilish Daly, Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to grant your request on 23 August 2016.

Teachers are employed by the Boards of Management of the schools where they work. The Department has issued two circulars (40/1997 – Primary teachers; and M18/1999 - Post Primary teachers) outlining the procedures to follow where a teacher is a victim of violence in the workplace. Such incidents are reported to the management authority of the school and records in relation to the assault are held in the school. Any leave of absence taken as a result of the assault is primarily dealt with under the sick leave scheme for teachers. From September 2015, schools were requested to report any incidents of assaults on staff to the Department.

Having regard to the foregoing, and in accordance with the information made available to me by the schools, the information I can provide is as follows:

- 1. The number and nature of each physical assault on both Primary and Secondary teachers in each of the past three years*

	Primary	Post Primary
2103/2014	0	1
2014/2015	2	2
2015/2016 (to date)	1	2

2. *The amount paid by the Department arising from any compensation cases taken by teachers*

No data in relation to compensation paid by this Department in relation to physical assaults on teachers is available.

3. *The number of teachers who have taken "stress leave" in both primary and secondary schools in each of the past four years*

No details available – There is no such absence type as "stress leave" provided for under this Department's sick leave scheme. As outlined above, absences are recorded as sick leave, and medical certificates submitted by teachers showing nature of illness are retained by school authorities.

4. *Breakdown of the reasons for "stress leave"*

As above, no records are available as no such leave type exists.

See separate chart of reported assaults and details requested (attached).

Education & Training Board (ETB) schools are not included in the data provided as those records are held separately by individual ETB's.

## **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](mailto: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 09064 83732.

Yours sincerely,

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Eilish Daly  
Executive Officer