

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Óthar Mhuileann na mBráthar
An Mhuileann gCearr
Co. na hIomhaí
N91 H30Y



Department of Education and Skills
Friar's Mill Road
Mullingar
Co. Westmeath
N91 H30Y



13th June, 2016

Re: FOI/2016/192

Dear Mr. [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 23rd May, 2016.

Your Request:

- *Figures on the number of children apply to enter their first year of primary school for the first time that fail to secure a place.*
- *Failure to secure a place to be considered a child still not being in school by November in the school year that they were supposed to be enrolled in.*
- *These figures to cover a period from 1995 up to 2015*

I have made a final decision to refuse your request on the 13th June 2016 under the provisions of section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 which states:

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 Department does not hold records on the number of children who have been refused a place in primary school. The selection and enrolment of pupils in schools is the responsibility of the authorities of the individual school. The Department's main responsibility is to ensure that schools in an area can, between them, cater for all pupils seeking school places in an area. However, this may result in some pupils' not obtaining a place in the school of their first choice. As schools may not have a place for every applicant, a selection process may be necessary.

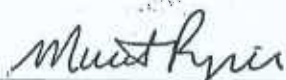
Right of Appeal

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. 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 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 076110 8583.

Yours sincerely,



Mairéad Reynolds
Higher Executive Officer
Schools' Division