

Freedom of Information Officer,
Department of Education,
Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

[REDACTED]

This is a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act. My preference is that the records are sent to me electronically but if that is not possible, please post a hard copy of the records to me at the address shown above.

My understanding is that the DES has an agreement with Bus Eireann for the provision of school transport for children with Special Needs. I request a copy of that agreement that covers the 3 years up to today's date.

If it is not included in the agreement, I explicitly request a copy of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the parties for the 3 years up to today's date.

My understanding from correspondence with Bus Eireann is that annually, they forward details of "cost savings" that they have achieved in the prior year. I request the records that show these cost savings for the 3 years to today's date.

I understand that the DES issue guidelines on the maximum amount of time a student (either attending Primary or Secondary school) should be on a bus. I request the record that details this and I request the equivalent record for children attending Special Schools who have special needs.

I understand that Bus Eireann tenders out all of the work for the transport of children with Special Needs. I request the records that detail the guidelines issued by the DES on how the tendering process must be carried out.

I understand that a new "Sanction Letter" was given for a new service from Malahide commencing in April 2010 going to St Augustine's school. I request a copy of this sanction letter and all of the records that supported this sanction letter being issued.

In DES Circular of November 2011, it states;

"Bus Eireann endeavours, within available resources, to ensure that each eligible child has a reasonable level of school transport service".

I want the records that detail how "reasonable level" is defined and assessed by the DES.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]