

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna  
Bóthar Bhuileann na mBráthar  
An Mullingar Ceann gCearr  
Co. na h-Uíbhí  
N91 H30Y



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

[REDACTED]

13<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

Re: FOI/2016/207

[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 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2016.

Your Request:

- *Monthly figures for the number of children (at an age where they should be attending primary school) that are not in attendance at school or receiving education.*
- *These figures to be given for a period between 1 January 2005 and 31 March 2016.*
- *The reasons cited most frequently for children not to be attending schools to be given also.*

I have made a final decision to refuse your request on the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 school attendance or non-attendance for primary or second level students. You are advised to contact TUSLA, the Educational Welfare Service who has a role in monitoring school attendance and who may hold records relevant to your request. TUSLA can be contacted at:

Tusla Educational Welfare Services,  
Child and Family Agency,  
Ground Floor, Brunel Building,  
Heuston South Quarter,  
Dublin 8  
Phone 01 7718815 or 01-7718633.



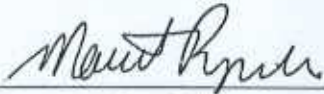
### **Right of Appeal**

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 076110 8583.

Yours sincerely,



Mairéad Reynolds  
Higher Executive Officer  
Schools' Division