

30 September 2016

[REDACTED]

Re: FOI request 2016/333

Dear Mr. Murphy

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 1997, 2003 and 2014 for records held by this body:

1. All implementation reports presented to the Traveller Implementation Group since 2010.
2. The minutes of all meetings of the Traveller Implementation Group since 2010.
3. The minutes of all meetings of the Traveller Education Strategy Advisory and Consultative Forum since 2010.

I have now made a final decision to refuse your request on 30 September 2016 in accordance with Section 29 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

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

I have enclosed a schedule containing the documents that this body considers relevant to your request. A description of each document is given and reference is made to the relevant section of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which apply to prevent release.

2. Reasons for decisions to deny access

The work of both the Traveller Implementation Group (TIG) and Traveller Education Strategy Advisory and Consultative Forum (TESACF) is not completed. I have outlined below the public interest factors I consider relevant to these records.

The relevant section of the Legislation is:

Section 29 – Deliberations of FOI bodies

'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), and

(b) the granting of the request would, in the opinion of the head, be contrary to the public interest,

and, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (b), the head shall, in determining whether to grant or refuse to grant the request, consider whether the grant thereof would be contrary to the public interest by reason of the fact that the requester concerned would thereby become aware of a significant decision that the body proposes to make'.

I consider that the public interest would not be best served by releasing these records at this time, on the basis that it could cause unnecessary intrusion into the ongoing deliberative and decision making process. Releasing these records could also prejudice the Department's ability to properly conclude those deliberations.

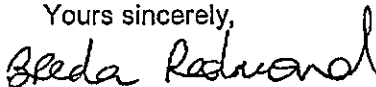
3. Right of appeal

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 or email foi@education.gov.ie. 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 at 090 648 3876.

Yours sincerely,



Breda Redmond
Higher Executive Officer