

**Ward, Eamonn**

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**From:** Freedom of Information  
**Sent:** 22 September 2016 16:01  
**To:** Gordon, Dave; McCauley, Roisin; Cullen, Siobhán; Curley, Aisling; Ward, Eamonn  
**Cc:** Freedom of Information  
**Subject:** FW: FOI: 2016/343 - [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** FW: 2016/343 - [REDACTED]

All,

The FOI Unit have been in contact with the requestor regarding FOI: 2016/343. The requestor has agreed to amend the request by removing points 11 & 12 however points 1 -10 still stand.

Amended Request

1. The total number of staff working in the Department of Education nationally.
2. The number of all staff (all grades-administrative, management and senior management) who were/are proficient in the Irish language ie able to provide a service in that language in 2014, 2015 and this year.
3. I wish to receive a copy of the progress reports for 2014, 2015, and for 2016 (if complete) for the Department of Education and Skills' Irish Language Scheme 2013-2016 under the Official Language Act 2003.
4. How many staff members have undertaken Irish language courses in the years 2014, 2015 and this year and at what level were the courses offered.
5. How much has the Department paid for these courses for staff, and who provides these courses.
6. What resources are available in the Irish language for staff in the Staff Training and Development Unit.
7. How much have these resources cost since 2013-present.
8. Please provide a list of all other (non Irish language) courses, programmes, training, that staff at the Department can avail of, that is covered by the Department.
9. How many complaints were received by the Department from members of the public or other parties regarding the Department's service in Irish in the years 2014 2015 and to the present.
10. I wish to see a sample of some complaints.

Grateful if you could possibly point me in the right direction of who would be the most appropriate Decision Maker/Reviewer or if information could be provided outside the FOI process.

Any observations you may have would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

Claire Lennon  
Freedom of Information/Records Management Unit



[foi@education.gov.ie](mailto:foi@education.gov.ie)

**From:** Freedom of Information  
**Sent:** 22 September 2016 13:18  
**To:** [REDACTED]

Cc: Freedom of Information <foi@education.gov.ie>

Subject: FOI: 2016/343 - [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request for access to information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this Department which was received by this office on 16/09/2016.

We have made preliminary enquiries within the Department where it would reasonably be expected to find the records you seek and can advise that under the provisions of section 15(1)(c) of the Freedom of Act 2014, your request in its current format would be considered a voluminous request and may not be feasible to process due to the interference with and disruption of work in a number of areas of the Department.

*15(1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –*

*(c) in the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason of the number or nature of the records concerned or nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned.*

It is noted that parts of your request are in the form of seeking information as opposed to requests for access to specific records. The Freedom of Information Act 2014 confers a general right of access to records, rather than a general right of access to information. Requests for information, as opposed to requests for records, are not valid requests under the FOI Act. If the information sought is not contained in a record the FOI Act does not impose an obligation on a public body to create a record where none exists; nor does it provide a mechanism for answering questions, or for seeking clarification, except to the extent that the question posed or clarification sought can reasonably be inferred to be a request for a relevant record that exist as of the date of the request, and which contains the answer or clarification sought.

Please note that the Freedom of Information Act 2014 requires that you, the requester, give us 'sufficient particulars' to enable us to identify the records you require. We are then required to take 'reasonable steps' to identify and locate those records. Section 12(1) (b) of the Act is the relevant section here:

*12(1) A person who wishes to exercise the right of access shall make a request, in writing or in such other form as may be determined, addressed to the head of the FOI body concerned for access to the record concerned –*

*(b) containing sufficient particulars in relation to the information concerned to enable the record to be identified by the taking of reasonable steps*

To assist you identifying areas of the Departments relevant to your request, section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, requires FOI bodies to prepare and publish as much information as possible in an open and accessible manner on a routine basis outside of FOI, having regard to the principles of openness, transparency, and accountability. This allows for the publication or giving of records outside of FOI provided that such publication or giving of access is not prohibited by law. The publication scheme can be viewed by the Departments website:

<http://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/FOI/Publication-Scheme/>

Any further information you could furnish to help us identify the records you seek would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Claire Lennon  
Freedom of Information/Records Management Unit  
Department of Education & Skills  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin D01 RC96



01 8892240



[foi@education.gov.ie](mailto:foi@education.gov.ie)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 September 2016 13:22  
**To:** Freedom of Information <[foi@education.gov.ie](mailto:foi@education.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** FOI-Department of Education-Irish language

Dear Sir/Madam,

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, I wish to request access to the following records from the Department of Education and Skills. My preferred form of access to these records is by e-mail.

1. The total number of staff working in the Department of Education nationally.
2. The number of all staff (all grades-administrative, management and senior management) who were/are proficient in the Irish language ie able to provide a service in that language in 2014, 2015 and this year.
3. I wish to receive a copy of the progress reports for 2014, 2015, and for 2016 (if complete) for the Department of Education and Skills' Irish Language Scheme 2013-2016 under the Official Language Act 2003.
4. How many staff members have undertaken Irish language courses in the years 2014, 2015 and this year and at what level were the courses offered.
5. How much has the Department paid for these courses for staff, and who provides these courses.
6. What resources are available in the Irish language for staff in the Staff Training and Development Unit.
7. How much have these resources cost since 2013-present.

8. Please provide a list of all other (non Irish language) courses, programmes, training, that staff at the Department can avail of, that is covered by the Department.

9. How many complaints were received by the Department from members of the public or other parties regarding the Department's service in Irish in the years 2014 2015 and to the present.

10. I wish to see a sample of some complaints.

11. What level of Irish proficiency does Minister Bruton have, and what level of Irish does his parliamentary advisors and other senior advisors have.

12. What level of Irish proficiency does Minister Halligan have, and what level does his parliamentary advisors and other senior advisors have.

Many thanks,



Séanadh Ríomhphoist/

Email Disclaimer

Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon chomhad a sheoltar leis faoi rún agus is lena úsáid ag an seolaí agus sin amháin é. Is féidir tuilleadh a léamh anseo.

*This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for use by the addressee. Read more here.*