


23rd October 2017



Re: FOI request 2017/377

Dear 

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

- "1. All correspondence between the Department and members of the Catholic Church regarding proposals to encourage the church to transfer the patronage of primary schools to other models, such as State-run schools.*
- 2. All correspondence from individuals objecting to the transfer of patronage of church-run schools to community national schools."*

The scope of this request was narrowed to the relevant years of 2015, 2016 and 2017 as per your agreement on 12th September 2017.

I, Danielle Crowley, Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 23rd October 2017.

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

A schedule is enclosed with this letter, it shows the documents that this body considers relevant to your request. It describes each document and refers to the sections of the FOI Act which apply to prevent release. The schedule also refers you to sections of the detailed explanation given under heading 2 below, which are relevant to the

document in question. It also gives you a summary and overview of the decision as a whole.

2. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

The sections of the Act which can apply to deny access to documents are known as its exemption provisions.

Deliberative Process - Section 29(1)(b)

Under Section 29(1)(b), access may be refused to records where the granting of the request would, in the opinion of the decision maker, be contrary to the public interest, and without prejudice to the above, 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.

The records listed in the attached schedule are refused in accordance with Section 29 as they relate to a pre-decisional, deliberative stage, I consider the public interest favours the withholding of these records as premature release could affect the decision-making process.

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. Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. 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 on 057 93 24392.

Yours sincerely,



Danielle Crowley
Executive Officer