

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
By Email

1 March 2017

**Re: Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2014**  
**Reference No: 2017/16**

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your application for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this Body as follows:

- *Correspondence or lobbying by TDs, schools or representative bodies to the Minister's Office regarding the Department's plans to: (1) end waiting lists for admission to schools, (2) a limit of 25 per cent on past-pupils, since November 2015 up to the date of processing this request.*

I, have now made a final decision to refuse your request on 1 March 2017 under Section 29(1) of the Act.

**Section 29(1) – The records concerned relate to the deliberative process:**

'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)'

This exemption has two requirements:

- (a) the record must contain matter relating to the deliberative process; and
- (b) disclosure must be contrary to the public interest.

I consider that the public interest would not be best served at this time by the release of these records on the basis that:

- Premature release could contaminate the decision making process;
- Disclosure of records may inhibit frankness and candor from participants in future pre-decisional communications.

In the event that you are unhappy with this decision you may appeal the 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 by e-mail to [foi@education.gov.ie](mailto:foi@education.gov.ie). The fee for an internal review is €30 and for information on payment methods please email the Department's Freedom of Information Unit.

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.

As discussed, I am providing a document that was released in a previous FOI that is relevant to your request. However, it should be noted that the issues raised in this correspondence may been further developed and they may not reflect the current position on these matters.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 090 648 3773.

Yours sincerely,



Déla Sammon  
Higher Executive Officer/Decision Maker  
School Governance Section