

**Rannóg Chomhoibrithe Thuaidh Theas  
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna  
Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1**



**North South Co-operation Section  
Department of Education and Skills  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Re: FOI request 2017/20**

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

*Briefing material prepared for the Taoiseach in relation to the impact of Brexit ahead of a public conference held in November 2016*

I, Kieran Ormond, Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to refuse your request on 10<sup>th</sup> February 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.

**As no briefing material was prepared for the Taoiseach there are no records in existence in relation to your request, therefore, I am denying access under Section 15 (1) (a) of the Act.**

### **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. 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](mailto: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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Ormond', written in a cursive style.

Kieran Ormond  
Executive Officer