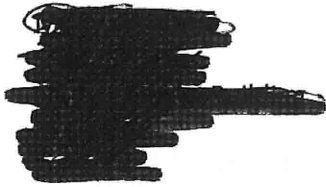




Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna



Office of the Secretary General
Department of Education and Skills



21st July 2017

Re: FOI request 2017/311

Dear 

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

“Under FOI law I would like a copy of all briefing material supplied to junior minister Mary Mitchell O’Connor upon her appointment to the department.”

I, Stacey Cannon, have now made a final decision to refuse your request on 21st July 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.

I am refusing this request under section 15(1)(f) of the FOI Act, as this document is now in the public domain. Please see link to document on Department of Education and Skill's website below for ease of reference.

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Ministers-Brief-/Minister-for-Higher-Education-Brief-2017.pdf>

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 D01 RC96 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

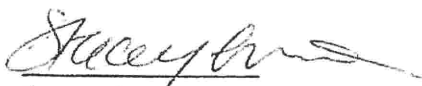
You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Publication

All non-personal FOI requests will be recorded on an FOI disclosure log which will be published on the Department of Education and Skills website in due course.

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact me by telephone at [Insert Number].

Yours sincerely,



Stacey Cannon
Private Secretary
Secretary General's Office