

[REDACTED]

27th April 2017

Re: FOI request 2017/110

Dear [REDACTED]

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

All correspondence between the Department and protestant institutions regarding the process of redress with relation to abuse or alleged abuse in industrial schools, reformatories and other institutions subject to state regulation or inspection. The documents sought are those dated between 1999 and 2002.

They should include any correspondence regarding the potential inclusion of or queries regarding the inclusion of institutions owned, run or administered by protestant denomination institutions in a redress scheme for compensation.

I, Peter O' Brien, Higher Executive Officer have now made a final decision to refuse your request on 28th April 2017, as no records were identified as falling within the scope of the request.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision. This explanation has the following parts:

1. an explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied, and
 2. a statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.
1. In this case the refusal to grant the Freedom of Information request is on administrative grounds in accordance with Section 15 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states that:

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

(a) The record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken."

Extensive searches were conducted and files which were deemed possibly relevant were identified. These files were examined in detail, however none contained records which fell within the scope of the request.

2. 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. 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 at 090 648 3937

Yours sincerely,

Peter O' Brien
Higher Executive Officer
Residential Institutions Redress Unit