

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

[REDACTED]

**Re: FOI request 2017/111**

Dear [REDACTED]

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

1. A copy of all prior correspondence received from [REDACTED] by the Department or the Minister relating to issues he highlighted regarding NUI Galway. This should include copies of any reports furnished by [REDACTED]. This may include but not be limited to correspondence received on November 22, 2012; December 10, 2012 or June 28, 2013.
2. A copy of the correspondence referred to above (Dec 3, 2014 and May 25, 2015) and all subsequent correspondence received from [REDACTED] by the Department relating to issues he raised regarding NUI Galway. This should include copies of any reports furnished by [REDACTED].
3. A copy of all correspondence which arose as a result of any contact made by [REDACTED] to the Higher Education Authority or NUI Galway.

I, Stephanie Goode, Higher Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to grant your request on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017. However, please note the following in relation to your request.

With regard to item 1, the Department does not have any record of correspondence received from [REDACTED] dated December 10, 2012. However, I have included a record which of correspondence issued to the Department from the Public Accounts Committee dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012, requesting a note on the issues raised by [REDACTED] in his correspondence to the Committee.

Also, the Department does not have any record of correspondence received from [REDACTED] dated June 28, 2013. However, I have included a record of a letter dated June 28, 2013 which is the response by the Secretary General to the Public Accounts Committee to the issues raised by [REDACTED].

Finally, in relation to item 3, please note that this Department does not have any records which would appear to have arisen as a result of any contact made by [REDACTED] to the Higher Education Authority or NUI Galway.

You have sought access to the records in electronic format and I consider this an appropriate form of access in this case. Accordingly, a copy of the records is now enclosed including a copy of the schedule to these records.

### **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 (€10 for medical card holders) 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.

### **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 057 932 4415.

Yours sincerely,

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**Stephanie Goode**  
**Higher Executive Officer**