

4th April 2017



Re: FOI request 2017/91

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

Any correspondence between Department officials at Principal Officer Level or higher, including Ministerial advisors, from May 2016 to date in relation to the assessment criteria and designation process for the Delivering Equality in Schools Scheme including any recommendations conveyed to the Minister.

I, Micheál Killilea, Higher Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to part grant your request. A schedule of the records relevant to your request is enclosed. Due the volume of records to be released, these will issue in hard copy separately. This process is underway and we will get the documents to you as soon as possible.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my 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.

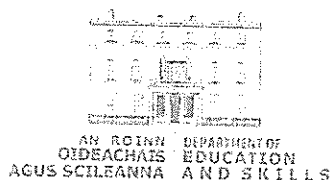
1. Schedule of records

A schedule is enclosed with this letter and 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.

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Corr na Madadh
Baile Átha Luain
Co. na hIarmhí
N37 X659



Department of Education and Skills
Cornamaddy
Athlone
Co. Westmeath
N37 X659

Sections 28(1)(a) and (c) apply where a record has been, or is proposed to be, submitted to the Government for its consideration by a Minister of the Government, or if the record contains information (including advice) for a member of the Government, the Attorney General, a Minister of State, the Secretary General to the Government for use by him or her solely for the purpose of the transaction of any business of the Government at a meeting of the Government.

Record No. 20 containing Memo for Government and Notes for Cabinet Committee meeting is an example where a record has been refused under this section of the Act. Record No. 10 containing Memo for Government but also records to be released is an example of a record which is part granted under this section of the Act.

Parts of records which fall outside the scope of the request have been redacted from the record. This is detailed for each record on the enclosed schedule.

Record No. 48 has been refused as the parts of the record that are inside the scope of the request are publicly available on the department's website.

3. Rights of appeal

If you are unhappy with this decision you may appeal it. 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 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.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 0906 483778.

Yours sincerely,

Micheál Killilea
Higher Executive Officer