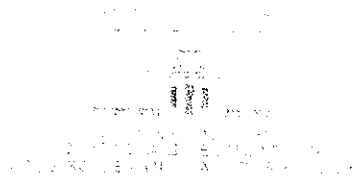


An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Bóthar Phort Laoise
An Tulach Mhór
Co. Uíbh Fhailí
R35 Y2N5



Department of Education and Skills
Portlaoise Road
Tullamore
Co. Offaly
R35 Y2N5

7th July 2017

[REDACTED]

Re: FOI request 2017/197

[REDACTED]

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

"I am requesting the cost benefit analysis conducted regarding the proposed purchase of the Harolds Cross Greyhound Stadium.

Also, any estimates/reports conducted to take regard of the cost of demolishing existing building on the site and making it fit for purpose. Any such documents should include reports commissioned by the Department or submitted to the Department by the Irish Greyhound Board or any third party."

I, Ruairí Smyth, Higher Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to refuse your request on 7th July 2017.

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.

This letter addresses each of these two parts in turn.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

I wish to inform you that such records do not exist and that I must therefore refuse your request. As is explained below, this decision is made under section 15(1)(a) of the Act.

Section 15 (1)(a) of the Act states that an FOI request may be refused if:

'the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken'

For your information, I wish to clarify that a detailed analysis of costs is conducted at regular stages through the design and tender processes for a school building project. Given a pre-determined requirement for a site based on demand for school places, the site acquisition process considers the merits of a property relative to alternatives, where such exist. In that context, there were no records which were relevant to your specific request.

2. 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


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 057-9325428.

Yours sincerely,



Ruairi Smyth
Higher Executive Officer
Site Acquisition and Property Management Section

E-mail: ruairi_smyth@education.gov.ie