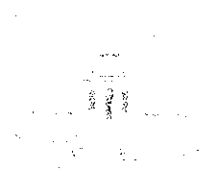


An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Bóthar Phort Laoise
An Tulach Mhór
Co. Uíbh Fhailí
R35 Y2N5



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

7th July 2017

[Redacted]

Re: FOI request 2017/198

[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 any Ministerial briefing or submissions prepared with regard to the proposal to purchase the Harolds Cross Greyhound Stadium from the Irish Greyhound Board."

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 the records you requested are exempt from this Act and that I must therefore refuse your request. As is explained below, this decision is made under section 42 (j) of the Act.

Section 42 (j) of the Act states that this Act does not apply to:

"A record given by an FOI body to a member of the Government or a Minister of State for use by him or her for the purposes of any proceedings in either House of the Oireachtas or any committee of either or both of such Houses or any subcommittee of such a committee (including such proceedings in relation to questions put by members

of either such House to members of the Government or Ministers of State (whether answered orally or in writing)),”

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 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 057-9325428 (direct line).

Yours sincerely,



Ruairí Smyth
Higher Executive Officer
Site Acquisition and Property Management Section

E-mail: ruairi_smyth@education.gov.ie