

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

15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

[REDACTED]

**Re: FOI request 2017/205**

Dear [REDACTED]

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

*"I wish to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, access to any minutes / memos / correspondence arising out of the meeting with the Archdiocese of Dublin as described in the following lobbying return, including any briefings prepared ahead of the meeting or correspondence following the meeting.*

*<https://www.lobbying.ie/return/16268/archdiocese-of-dublin>"*

I, Danielle Crowley, Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that 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, 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.

I consider the redactions in record 1, are exempt from release under the provisions of section 30 (1) (c) of the FOI Act 2014 as it contains matters relating to the deliberative processes of this Department regarding ongoing divestment policy decisions and that disclosure of the records at this time would be contrary to the public interest.

### **Section 30 – Functions and negotiations of FOI bodies**

*30 (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to ...*

*(c) disclose positions taken, or to be taken, or plans, procedures, criteria or instructions used or followed, or to be used or followed, for the purpose of any negotiations carried on or being, or to be, carried on by or on behalf of the Government or an FOI body.*

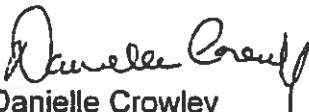
I consider that the public interest would not be best served at this time on the basis that it could disclose negotiating positions (including plans, procedures, criteria or instructions) of Government or any FOI body.

## **3. 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. 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.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 057 93 24392.

Yours sincerely,

  
Danielle Crowley  
Executive Officer