

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,
XXXXXXXXXXXX

23rd February 2018

Re: FOI Request 2018/45

Dear XXXXXXXXX

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

"I wish to have access to records held by the Department of Education under the Freedom of Information Act.

Among the records I wish to have access to include:

** Correspondence to the Department of Education in relation to circular 0032/2017 on "measures to be adopted by schools to reduce the cost of school uniforms and other costs";*

** Briefing material, if any, provided to the Minister for Education in relation to circular 0032/2017."*

I, Paul Haynes, Higher Executive Officer have now made a final decision to grant your request on 23rd February 2018.

The purpose of this letter is to address your request and consists of:

1. A schedule of all the records covered by your request;
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. Schedule of records

(A) A schedule is enclosed with this letter, it shows all of the 19 documents that this body considers relevant to your request. It describes each document.

(B) one document has been redacted by reference to Sections 29(1), 30(1)(b) and 30(1)(c) of the FOI Act 2014.

Section 29(1) – The record redacted refers to ongoing deliberations on developing further guidelines and legislation on this topic.

Section 30(1)(b) – the redaction relates to information which could have significant adverse effect on the management of operational matters in the education sector and the management of financial resources across the education sector.

30(1)(c) – the redaction could 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 my or on behalf of the Government of an FOI body.

It is not in the public interest to release the redacted material. The reason is to protect the efficient and effective management of the Department of Education and Skills specifically in relation to how schools and other education bodies are informed of new policies, procedures, statutory requirements and legislative changes.

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 090 6483959.

Yours sincerely

Paul Haynes
Higher Executive Officer
FOI Decision Maker