

Rannóg Chomhoibrithe Thuaidh Theas  
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna  
Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1



North South Co-operation Section  
Department of Education and Skills  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

6 February 2018

Re: FOI request 2018/9

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

***“Copies of all external and internal correspondence, internal memos and notes of meetings relating to the US-Ireland Alliance since January 1st, 2016 and in particular any records relating to the Irish Government funding provided to the alliance for the George J Mitchell Scholarship programme”.***

I, Kieran Ormond, Executive Officer, have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 6 February 2018.

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 record(s) 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(s) 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.

In the attached schedule the records listed at 2 are part granted under the provision of section 29 (1) (a) “Deliberations of Public Bodies” on the basis that the records contain matters relating to the deliberative processes of this Department and that their disclosure would not be in the public's best

interest and also under the provision of section 37 (1) "Personal Information" on the basis that the records would involve the disclosure of personal information.

The records listed at 6 are part granted under the provision of section 37 (1) "Personal Information" on the basis that the records would involve the disclosure of personal information.

The records listed at 7 are part granted under the provision of section 36 (1) "Commercially Sensitive Information" on the basis that the records contain bank details.

The record listed at 8 is part granted under the provision of section 29 (1) (a) "Deliberations of Public Bodies" on the basis that a record (email thread 2/9/16) contains matters relating to the deliberative processes of this Department and that their disclosure would not be in the public's best interest. I consider that the public interest would not be best served, at this time, on the basis that it could reveal details regarding the deliberative process of which the Department has yet to finalise its deliberations and that such release could prejudice the Department's ability to properly conclude those deliberations.

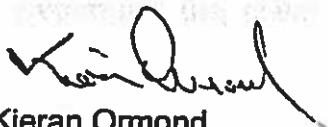
The records listed at 9,10, 11 & 12 are exempted under the provision of section 29 (1) (a) "Deliberations of Public Bodies" on the basis that the records contain matters relating to the deliberative processes of this Department and that their disclosure would not be in the public's best interest. I consider that the public interest would not be best served, at this time, on the basis that it could reveal details regarding the deliberative process of which the Department has yet to finalise its deliberations and that such release could prejudice the Department's ability to properly conclude those deliberations.

### 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. 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](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.

Yours sincerely,



Kieran Ormond  
Executive Officer