

From: John Hamill [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FOI Request Ref: M21/1210/JH
Date: 3 November 2021 at 17:52
To: Stephen Fahy [REDACTED]
Cc: Orla Reilly [REDACTED]; Freedom of Information Freedom-Of-Information@msletb.ie



That looks good.

Thanks, Stephen.

John.

On 3 Nov 2021, at 17:29, Stephen Fahy [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear John,

The FOI Unit have amended your request as per your suggested refinements.

"I would like to make a formal request for access to records under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. In accordance with Section 12 of the Act, I am requesting that you should send me copies of all email invitations for teachers to attend Religious Education in-service days, which were received during calendar year 2016.

This relates to invitations received in the email inboxes of principal's, main office address of schools, and inboxes of teachers rostered to teach 'Religion' in 2016. I am requesting to search the following schools under the purview of MSLETB:

- St Joseph's College
- St Brendan's College
- St Patrick's College
- St Tiernan's College
- Mohill Community College

Also, to assist with the Search & Retrieval of these records I have provided the following keywords:

Search 1: "@achonrydiocese.org"

- should return any emails with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Achonry, which may have issued the invites

Search 2: "@pdst.ie"

- should return any emails with the PDST, which may have issued the invites

Search 3: "R.E. in" or "religion in" or "RE in"

- should return any emails that refer to religion in service days, or religion training, irrespective of the terminology used

For clarity, I do not require emails sent by schools in response to these invitations, which may discuss which teachers had planned to attend which events. My only interest is in the invitations themselves (including any information about the agenda for these events) which should not contain any personal information. I understand that the number of in-service days per annum is not large, such that the number of invitations to attend in-service days for only one subject during one calendar year should not be excessive.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I will look forward to your detailed response to these requests within four weeks of the date of this correspondence."

Please confirm the above refinement captures your request.

The FOI Unit will revert with the appropriate schedule of fees (if any), once you have confirmed the wording of your revised FOI Request.

Kind Regards,

Stephen Fahy | Freedom Of Information Unit <image001.png>
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board
Newtown, Castlebar, Co. Mayo F23 DV78
Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

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Registered Charity No: 20083472

From: John Hamill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday 2 November 2021 10:59
To: Stephen Fahy <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Orla Reilly <[REDACTED]>; Freedom of Information <Freedom-Of-Information@msletb.ie>
Subject: Re: FOI Request Ref: M21/1210/JH
Importance: High

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The main office address of the schools.

On 2 Nov 2021, at 10:56, Stephen Fahy <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear John,

I refer to your email of the 29/10/2021, which was received by this office on 01/11/2021. I note the contents of same, and your suggested refinements.

To complete this request, can you clarify what you mean by "Main Office Address"? Is this the reception address of the main MSLETB office or are you referring to reception address of the schools? We will need you to clarify before we proceed and also before we provide an estimate.

Once I hear from you, I will confirm the full refined request and revert with the appropriate schedule of fees, if any.

Kind Regards,

Stephen Fahy | Freedom Of Information Unit <image001.png>
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board
Newtown, Castlebar, Co. Mayo F23 DV78
Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

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[Registered Charity No: 20083472](#)

From: John Hamill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday 29 October 2021 19:06
To: Stephen Fahy <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Orla Reilly <[REDACTED]>; Freedom of Information <Freedom-Of-Information@msletb.ie>
Subject: Re: FOI Request Ref: M21/1210/JH
Importance: High

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Hi Stephen,

I'm happy to clarify some of these points, but to be honest I read much of your commentary below as being deliberately obtuse. It is absurd that you would take my request and assume that you would need to search every single email received. Do please catch yourself on. If you don't know how to search for emails about an in-service day for one specific subject, then I can suggest some search terms below. At some point though, I think it is reasonable to expect that those conducting the searches will not be eight year-old children, but rather they will be able to conduct some reasonable searches without having to read every single email they've ever received.

Search 1: "@achonrydiocese.org"

- should return any emails with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Achonry, which may have issued the invites

Search 2: "@pdst.ie"

- should return any emails with the PDST, which may have issued the invites

Search 3: "R.E. in" or "religion in" or "RE in"

- should return any emails that refer to religion in service days, or religion training, irrespective of the terminology used

Of course only teachers actively taking religion classes would need to perform searches. I hope this helps you but if not, then perhaps you can share the details of how your estimates have been arrived at and we can take it from there?

John.

On 29 Oct 2021, at 16:59, Stephen Fahy <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi John,

I hope you are keeping well. Thank you for refining the scope of your FOI Request (Reference: M21/1210/JH). As a reminder your original request was as follows:

"I would like to make a formal request for access to records under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. In accordance with Section 12 of the Act, I am requesting that you should send me copies of all email invitations for teachers to attend Religious Education in-services days, which were received during calendar year 2016. This relates to invitations received by MSLETB itself, as well as invitations received by any and all schools under the purview of MSLETB.

For clarity, I do not require emails sent by schools in response to these invitations, which may discuss which teachers had planned to attend which events. My only interest is in the invitations themselves (including any information about the agenda for these events) which should not contain any personal information. I understand that the number of in-service days per annum is not large, such that the number of invitations to attend in-service days for only one subject during one calendar year should not be excessive.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I will look forward to your detailed response to these requests within four weeks of the date of this correspondence."

It is appreciated that you have reduced the number schools to be searched from 17 schools to 5 schools. This will make a significant difference in the amount of hours it will take to search for these records. However, the FOI Unit still estimates that your request will still incur fees as there will still be a large volume of records to search through.

In your last email you stated the following:

"It will not be necessary for all teachers to search their email accounts. I'm only interested in invitations to in-service days for one subject during one calendar year, and I don't anticipate that there will be a large number of those. As such, the only email accounts to be searched will be those for the principal, the main office address and the religion teachers."

I would like to make the following comments on your original FOI Request and also your requested amendments to your original request.

1. Thank you for clarifying that *"It will not be necessary for all teachers to search their email accounts"*. The FOI Unit still estimates that there will be a large amount of records to search through as you have not specified how we are going to conduct searches. What search terms are you using? How do you suggest that we conduct the search? It would be unreasonable to expect that we would search every email for such an invite so please advise what search criteria you expect we would use.
2. Can you give us a better description on what email inboxes you would like us to search? You have requested the following email inboxes to be searched:

- **Principals**

Our interpretation of this is you would like us to search the Principals' email inbox for each of the 5 schools.

- **Main Office Address**

Which inbox are you referring to here? Reception inbox of each of the 5 schools? We will need you to be more specific please.

Religion Teachers

Our interpretation of this is that you would like us to search all Religion Teachers' email inboxes for each of the 5 schools. This could potentially be a very large amount of email accounts as there may be a significant number of Teachers who are qualified to teach Religion in each of these schools. Can you please clarify if it is the Teachers rostered to teach Religion in the year 2016 whose mailboxes need to be checked?

With these points in mind it would be appreciated if you send in a revised FOI Request in concise form. Please let me know if you wish to explore possible amendments to your request which might reduce or eliminate the requirement to charge fees in this matter. If you are interested in discussing this, please give us a call on [REDACTED] or send an email to freedomofinformation@msletb.ie. In this regard the FOI Unit is happy to assist you in refining your request. On receipt of your revised request and depending on the scope, we will advise what, if any, fees apply at that stage.

Kind Regards,

Stephen Fahy | Freedom Of Information Unit <image001.png>

Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board
Newtown, Castlebar, Co. Mayo F23 DV78
Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

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Registered Charity No: 20083472

From: John Hamill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 18:03
To: Stephen Fahy <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Orla Reilly <[REDACTED]>; Freedom of Information <Freedom-Of-Information@msletb.ie>
Subject: Re: FOI Request Ref: M21/1210/JH
Importance: High

You don't often get email from john.hamill@mac.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Stephen,

I think there is some misunderstanding here. That might be my fault so apologies for that.

It will not be necessary for all teachers to search their email accounts. I'm only interested in invitations to in-service days for one subject during one calendar year, and I don't anticipate that there will be a large number of those. As such, the only email accounts to be searched will be those for the principal, the main office address and the religion teachers.

Moreover, I can suggest that to further limit the scope we should focus only on the following schools:

St Jospeh's College
St Brendan's College
St Patrick's College
St Tierman's College
Mohill Community College

Do you think that will help, Stephen?
John.

On 26 Oct 2021, at 17:31, Stephen Fahy <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi John,

I hope you are keeping well.

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this body, which was received by this office on 12th October 2021 via email. Find attached an response letter, and also a copy of Section 27 of the FOI Act 2014 referenced in this letter.

In all further correspondence to this office can you please quote the following FOI Request Reference: M21/1210/JH. If you have any further queries please contact the FOI Unit by telephone on 094 9024188 or via email on freedomofinformation@msletb.ie.

Kind Regards,

Stephen Fahy | Freedom Of Information Unit <image001.png>

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<Response Letter FOI Request_M21.1210.JH.pdf><FOI Act 2014_Section 27.pdf>