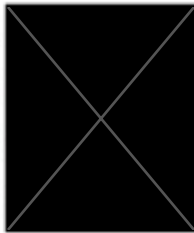


30 January 2018

Atheist Ireland

c/o John Hamill



Dear John,

Further to receipt of your letter on 3 January 2018, please see below PDST's responses to the requests for information.

Request for information: All correspondence between the PDST and representatives of the Catholic Church (including emails and written correspondence) since January 2016. This is to include Diocesan Advisors working with schools on behalf of the Catholic Church.

PDST response: There has been no such correspondence or communication between PDST and representatives of the Catholic Church.

Request for information: All minutes from meetings, policy documents or other agreements with representatives of the Catholic Church that relate to in-service days for religion teachers. This is to include agreements relating to the content to be presented at such in-service days, arrangements for physical premises to be used, how costs should be covered and the management of any fees paid, how such in-service days should be advertised towards schools, and what commercial products would be promoted at such in-service days (for example, from suppliers such as Veritas).

PDST response: There have been no meetings with any representatives of the Catholic Church and they have not inputted to any of our material or been involved in any way with the organisation of in-service.

Request for information: Any minutes from meetings, policy documents or other agreements with representatives of the Catholic Church, which relate to how religion should be taught or how teachers should be instructed in the teaching of religion.

PDST response: There have been no meetings with any representatives of the Catholic Church and they have not contributed to any of our material.

Request for information: All written correspondence and all emails to and from the Department of Education and Skills relating to the teaching of religion since January 2016.

PDST response: Our records show there have been no e-mails or other correspondence between the PDST and the DES since January 2016 relating to the teaching of religion.

Request for information: All written correspondence and all emails to and from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment relating to the teaching of religion since January 2016.

PDST response: Our records show there have been no e-mails or other correspondence between the PDST and the NCCA since January 2016 relating to the teaching of religion.

Request for information: A list of all in-service days for religion teachers since January 2016, which were attended both by representatives of the Catholic Church and representatives of the PDST, or arranged by both the Catholic Church and PDST.

PDST response: There have been no jointly arranged in-service days and representatives of the Catholic Church have not attended our in-service days in that capacity.

Request for information: Details of any payments made to the Catholic Church or Diocesan Advisors acting on behalf of the Catholic Church.

PDST response: There have been no payments.

Yours sincerely



Ciara O'Donnell, National Director