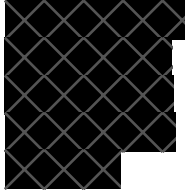




Mr John Hamill



10th March 2023

Re: Freedom of Information Request – DES-FOI-2023-0007

Dear Mr Hamill

I refer to your request dated 12th February 2023 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, which was received on 13th February 2023 for records held by the Department of Education. Your request sought:

Access to all non-personal records within PDST relating to communications with the Le Chéile Schools Trust during the calendar year 2016. Specifically, this should involve searching the following two email accounts:

- ciaraodonnell@pdst.ie
- garycarley@pdst.ie

The search should seek all emails to and from the domain “@lecheiletrust.ie”. Also specifically within the scope of this FoI request are all presentations, training materials, meeting minutes, communications or other records relating to the arrangement and delivery of an event at the Stillorgan Park Hotel on March 8th 2016. I’m interested in records relating to how the event was arranged, what content was requested, what content was delivered during the event, and what internal PDST considerations were made with respect what content should be delivered.

I, Brian Geraghty, Executive Officer, have now made a final decision in relation to your request on 10th March 2023.

Accordingly, the information is provided as follows:

1. Record 1 – Emails between Le Chéile Trust & Ciara O_Donnell in 2016 – Granted
2. Record 2 - Emails between Le Chéile Trust & Gary Carley in 2016 – partially granted.

37(1) Personal information - disclose personal information



Section 37 of the FOI Act recognises a very strong public interest in protecting privacy rights and this is reflected both in the language of section 37 and in the Long Title to the Act (which makes clear that the release of records under FOI must be consistent with "the right to privacy"). Privacy rights will therefore be set aside only where the public interest served by granting the request (and breaching those rights) is sufficiently strong to outweigh the public interest in protecting privacy.

Having carefully considered the public interest as it relates to disclosure of personal information, I have decided to partially grant your request. Some personal information has therefore been redacted from this record.

3. Record 3 - The event at the Stillorgan Park Hotel on March 8th 2016– Refused
15(1)(a) Record does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps have been taken

Section 15 (1) (a) of the FOI Act provides for the refusal of a request where the records sought do not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain their whereabouts has been taken.

In refusing your request I am satisfied that no such requested information exists.

4. Record 4 - Attachments to email between Le Chéile Trust & Gary Carley on 05/09/2016 – granted

5. Record 5 - Attachments to email between Le Chéile Trust & Gary Carley on 10/10/2016 – granted

6. Record 6 - Attachments to email between Le Chéile Trust & Gary Carley on 21/11/2016 – granted

7. Record 7 - Attachments to email between Le Chéile Trust & Gary Carley on 23/09/16 – granted

8. Record 8 - Attachments to email between Le Chéile Trust & Gary Carley on 30/08/2016 – partially granted

37(1) Personal information - disclose personal information

Section 37 of the FOI Act recognises a very strong public interest in protecting privacy rights and this is reflected both in the language of section 37 and in the Long Title to the Act (which makes clear that the release of records under FOI must be consistent with "the right to privacy"). Privacy rights will therefore be set aside only where the public interest



served by granting the request (and breaching those rights) is sufficiently strong to outweigh the public interest in protecting privacy.

Having carefully considered the public interest as it relates to disclosure of personal information, I have decided to partially grant your request. Some personal information has therefore been redacted from this record.

9. Record 9 - Attachments to email between Le Chéile Trust & Gary Carley on 12/09/2016 Mother Teresa – granted

10. Record 10 – Le Chéile Materials October 2016 – Refused

35(1)(a) Information obtained in confidence -understanding it would be treated in confidence.

Section 35 (1)(a) of the FOI Act provides for the refusal of a request where the record concerned contains information given to an FOI body in confidence and on the understanding that it would be treated by it as confidential (including such information as aforesaid that a person was required by law, or could have been required by the body pursuant to law, to give to the body) and, in the opinion of the head, its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the giving to the body of further similar information from the same person or other persons and it is of importance to the body that such further similar information as aforesaid should continue to be given to the body.

Having carefully considered the interests of the body that supplied the information I have decided to refuse the records concerned as it contains information given in confidence.

11. Record 11 - Email attachment 19 May 2016 – partially granted

37(1) Personal information - disclose personal information

Section 37 of the FOI Act recognises a very strong public interest in protecting privacy rights and this is reflected both in the language of section 37 and in the Long Title to the Act (which makes clear that the release of records under FOI must be consistent with "the right to privacy"). Privacy rights will therefore be set aside only where the public interest served by granting the request (and breaching those rights) is sufficiently strong to outweigh the public interest in protecting privacy.

Having carefully considered the public interest as it relates to disclosure of personal information, I have decided to partially grant your request. Some personal information has therefore been redacted from this record.

12. Record 12 - Email attachment 21 October 2016 – granted



13. Record 13 - Email attachment 26 September 2016 - granted

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, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 RC96 or email foi@education.gov.ie . There is a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. For further information regarding payment methods, 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 website in due course.

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact me at 085 8294193 or by email at Brian_Geraghty@education.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Geraghty,
Executive Officer.