



Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie>

FOI-0104-2022 Decision

Maria Hodson (DCEDIY) <Maria.Hodson@equality.gov.ie>
To: Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie>
Cc: DCEDIY FOI Equality <foiequality@equality.gov.ie>

18 October 2022 at 10:46

Dear Liam,

I can confirm that the records of the fora you have listed were searched. We have taken your request to mean accommodation for particularly vulnerable people, i.e. those with complex health needs who would be in need of high levels of social care intervention rather than the general new accommodation model.

If we ignore the vulnerability assessment documents there were two items in the time period; record 7 and record 8. These were both refused on the basis of Section 29(1).

29. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request—

(a) if the record concerned contains matter relating to the deliberative processes of an FOI body (including opinions, advice, recommendations, and the results of consultations, considered by the body, the head of the body, or a member of the body or of the staff of the body for the purpose of those processes), and

(b) the granting of the request would, in the opinion of the head, be contrary to the public interest.

As will be appreciated since March 2022, the war in Ukraine has had an unavoidable impact on timelines for the implementation of the White Paper, as staff in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) have been temporarily diverted to fulfil Ireland's obligations including members of the White paper Transition Team. Upwards of 52,000 people displaced by the war in Ukraine have come to Ireland under the Temporary Protection Directive, and over 41,000 have been accommodated by the State. Alongside this, there has been a substantial increase in the number of people seeking international protection with over 10,000 arrivals in the first three quarters of 2022 alone. Overall DCEDIY is now accommodating over 50,000 people, compared with 7,000 at this time last year.

In this vastly changed context since the publication of the White Paper, an overall review of the projected timelines and deliverables is currently underway. This is a complex exercise and will take account of both the delays that have arisen as a consequence of the crisis in Ukraine and the impact of the substantial increase in the numbers seeking international protection.

Kind regards,

Maria

From: Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie>
Sent: Monday 17 October 2022 17:09
To: DCEDIY FOI Equality <foiequality@equality.gov.ie>; Maria Hodson (DCEDIY) <Maria.Hodson@equality.gov.ie>
Subject: Re: FOI-0104-2022 Decision

CAUTION: This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are in any doubt, please contact the OGCIO IT Service Desk.

Dear Maria,

I hope all is well. Just before I consider whether I need to appeal this decision.

So just to confirm, between 08 December 2021 and 08 September 2022, there is only one record pertaining to implementation of the White Paper on Ending Direct Provision and the issue of accommodation for vulnerable protection applicants. (The vulnerability assessment documents formed no part of this request):

Record number 8 in your schedule (refused due to deliberative process ongoing).

I'd have expected that the issue of accommodation for vulnerable protection applicants would have been discussed (and records created on these), in the following fora:

- (1) International Protection Support Service Transition Team
- (2) International Protection Support Service Programme Board (IPSS PB)
- (3) External Advisory Group (EAG).
- (4) In addition, the White Paper Implementation Group consisting of the
 - 4.a. Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth
 - 4.b. Housing Agency
 - 4.c. Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage

Can you confirm that relevant records from these groups were searched and accessed prior to this decision being reached, and no such records exist within the scope of my request?

I look forward to hearing from you,

Liam

|Dr Liam Thornton | Associate Professor | L129, School of Law, University College Dublin | E: liam.thornton@ucd.ie | W: www.liamthornton.ie | Tel: 01 716 4129 | T: @LTLaw_

Student Consultations by appointment: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am to 11am in L129 SUTH. Please book your student consultation [here](#), at least 24 hours beforehand.

Latest publications [here](#).

On Mon, 3 Oct 2022 at 13:17, eFOI (DCEDIY) <DCEDIY-eFOI-noreply@cloud.gov.ie> wrote:

Dear Dr Thornton,

A decision has been made to part grant your request. Please find attached the decision letter, schedule, and record issuing to you.

Kind regards,

Freedom of Information unit

The FOI Request FOI-0104-2022 has been emailed to you by Rory Licken (DCEDIY).