



Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie>

Re: White Paper on Ending Direct Provision: Vulnerable applicants and accommodation

DCEDIY FOI Equality <foiequality@equality.gov.ie>
To: Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie>

14 April 2022 at 16:34

Dear Liam,

I have requested the unit processing your request to provide an expected completion date for this request. I will inform you of same as soon as I get confirmation.

Kind regards,

Rory Licken

Freedom of Information Office

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Bloc 1, Plaza Míseach, 50-58 Sráid Bhagóid Íochtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 2. D02 XW14
Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2. D02 XWI4, Freepost F5055

T: +353 1 647 3030

E: foiequality@equality.gov.ie**From:** Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie>**Sent:** Monday 11 April 2022 11:31**To:** DCEDIY FOI Equality <foiequality@equality.gov.ie>**Subject:** Re: White Paper on Ending Direct Provision: Vulnerable applicants and accommodation

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Dear Anthony, it is now over four months since I made this FOI request.

May I have a precise date for when records on this request will be released to me.

Many thanks,

Liam

|Dr Liam Thornton | Associate Professor | [School of Law](#), University College Dublin | E: liam.thornton@ucd.ie | W: www.liamthornton.ie | T: @LTLaw_

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On Mon, 28 Feb 2022 at 07:36, Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie> wrote:

Hi Anthony,

I appreciate that it is not your fault for these delays. Please forward this email to the Head of FOI in DCEDIY as a matter of urgency.

I need a firm date for when this request will be completed. Staffing issues in DCEDIY cannot justify egregious non compliance with clear obligations under the FOI Act 2014 by DCEDIY.

My request contains precise and exact information. As part of evidence to the Information Commissioner, I have examples of requests (from others) sent after mine, and completed well within the time periods set down under the FOI Act 2014. Some of these were much more wide ranging than my precise and exact request. This puts a very different complexion on claims of lack of staff to process FOI requests, which I had accepted up to now.

I need a full response by Head of FOI in DCEYID to this email.

Many thanks,

Liam

Dr Liam Thornton, Associate Professor, UCD School of Law.

On Fri 25 Feb 2022, 12:43 PM DCEDIY FOI Equality, <foiequality@equality.gov.ie> wrote:

Hi Liam,

Please accept our apologies for the ongoing delays regarding this request. We have sent a reminder on to the section. Unfortunately, I do not expect a decision to issue to you today regarding your request.

Due to the volume of requests received at the end of 2021, we are still experiencing delays in processing those requests as we are working through a backlog.

We have taken measures to ensure this does not happen again in future. We have taken new staff over to the FOI team and are currently implementing a new software through which we will be processing all FOI requests from next week onwards. These measures will allow us to handle the sharp increase in the volume of FOI requests that we have experienced in recent months.

If you wish to make an application for review by the OIC, you can do so by following the link in the attached document.

Kind regards,

Anthony

From: Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 23 February 2022 11:16

To: DCEDIY FOI Equality <foiequality@equality.gov.ie>

Subject: Re: White Paper on Ending Direct Provision: Vulnerable applicants and accommodation

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Dear Anthony,

This is now beyond any reasonable period of time to respond to my FOI request.

I will need the request and records by close of business on Friday 25th February or I will progress the issue through the Information Commissioner.

All the best,

Liam

|Dr Liam Thornton | Associate Professor | [School of Law](#), University College Dublin | E: liam.thornton@ucd.ie | W: www.liamthornton.ie | T: [@LTLaw_](tel:@LTLaw_)

UCD Students can book an appointment during my office hours [here](#).

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On Wed, 9 Feb 2022 at 17:31, DCEDIY FOI Equality <foiequality@equality.gov.ie> wrote:

Dear Liam,

We have contacted the relevant team and aim to issue a decision to you as soon as possible.

Apologies for the inconvenience caused by this delay. We experienced a sharp increase in the volume of FOI requests in the last three months of 2021 and have since increased the capacity of the FOI team to address the workload and avoid delays such as this in future.

Kind regards,

Anthony Redmond

Freedom of Information Officer

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

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Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2. D02 XWI4, Freepost F5055

T: +353 1 237 6133

E: Anthony.Redmond@equality.gov.ie

From: Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 9 February 2022 15:37

To: DCEDIY FOI Equality <foiequality@equality.gov.ie>

Subject: Re: White Paper on Ending Direct Provision: Vulnerable applicants and accommodation

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Dear DECDIY,

I have not received an acknowledgement of this request, nor any records.

Can you indicate when this FOI will be responded to?

If I do not receive a response from you by close of business on Friday, 11 February, I will lodge an appeal with the Information Commissioner,

Liam

|Dr Liam Thornton | Associate Professor | [School of Law](#), University College Dublin
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Liam Thornton, "Asylum seekers, refugees and the (slow) path to justice in Ireland" in Melatu Uche Okorie, *This Hostel Life* (2nd edn, Skein Press, 2021), 61-83 [open access chapter [here](#)].

On Thu, 13 Jan 2022 at 08:00, Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie> wrote:

Dear DCEDIY,

I have not received an acknowledgement of my FOI request (attached below).

As the statutory time limit for a response has now passed, I request an internal review due to this deemed refusal of my FOI request. Many thanks for completing this internal review within the strict statutory time limits provided under the FOIA.

As I did not receive an acknowledgment, a notice of delay nor a notice of decision, there is no fee payable in relation to this internal review request.

Please note that if I do not receive a decision letter and relevant records within 3 weeks, I will lodge an appeal with the Information Commissioner.

Best wishes,
Liam

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| E: liam.thornton@ucd.ie | W: www.liamthornton.ie | T: @LTLaw_

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Liam Thornton, "Asylum seekers, refugees and the (slow) path to justice in Ireland" in Melatu Uche Okorie, *This Hostel Life* (2nd edn, Skein Press, 2021), 61-83 [open access chapter [here](#)].

On Tue, 7 Dec 2021 at 12:54, Liam Thornton <liam.thornton@ucd.ie> wrote:

Dear DCEDIY,

I wish to make the following FOIA 2014 request.

The White Paper on Ending Direct Provision provides that particularly vulnerable persons seeking protection will be entitled to accommodation which may be provided by approved housing bodies and NGOs etc

I request access to all records relating to:

1. Memos, policy papers, meeting minutes etc within DCEDIY on the issue of accommodation for vulnerable persons seeking protection from the publication of the Day Report on Direct Provision on 21 October 2020 to 07 December 2021.
2. DCEDIY engagement, discussions, memos, policy agreements etc with approved housing bodies/non-governmental organisations relating to the provision of accommodation for particularly vulnerable persons seeking protection from the publication of the White Paper on 26 February 2021 to 07 December 2021.

This request is sent to you on 07 December 2021. Starting from 08 December 2021 as the first full working day and in line with statutory obligations, I expect a reply to this FOI (with attached records (if any)) within 20 working days. This by my calculation will be by 10 January 2022 at the latest.

I wish to receive all records electronically and with their original formatting.

Many thanks,

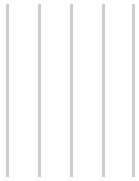
Liam

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