

4th October 2022

Mr. Thomas Kerin

Thomas.kerin@gmail.com

Re: FOI request - Decision Letter FOI-0303-2022 on NOC briefing material

Dear Mr. Kerin,

I refer to the request which you made on the 19th August 2022 under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this Department. The request is as follows:

"Under the FOI Act 2014, I am seeking the following:

- Minutes of meetings, and any briefing material for National Oversight Committee for the Drugs Strategy on the following dates:

18 January 2019, 07-06-2019, 20-09-2019, 6 December 2019, 27th March 2020, 18th September 2020, 4th December 2020, 5th March 2021, 24th September 2021, 3rd December 2021

- Agenda and any briefing material of the June National Oversight Committee for the Drugs Strategy in June/July - unsure of the date exactly or if one took place

I would prefer to receive this information electronically, preferably in its original formatting".

Scope of the Request

Your request as described is non-personal and seeks access to particular records as set out above. This Department has advised for some time that the text of requests, including the name of the

requester will be placed on FOI disclosure logs to be made available on the Department's website. This disclosure log policy does not apply to requests for personal information.

Decision

In accordance with the requirements of section 15(1)(a) I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify any records in relation to your request.

To try and locate records, the Drugs Policy and Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of Health carried out searches of its electronic files. **32** records relevant to your request, were located following these searches. Please note that the NOC meeting scheduled for 27th March 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19.

I have made a final decision to grant your request on 04/10/2022. The Sections of the Act used to protect certain information are known as its exemption provisions. The records being released are now enclosed along with a corresponding schedule. If you have any queries regarding this correspondence, you can contact me at the email address below.

Rights of Review

In the event that you are not happy with this decision, you may seek a review by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Health, Block 1 Miesian Plaza, 50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2 seeking an internal review of the matter and referring to or enclosing a copy of this letter. Please note that a fee applies for such a review. The level of this has been set at €30 and payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order or postal order, and made payable to the Freedom of Information Unit. You should submit this within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding the weekend and public holidays. The making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body and the decision will be communicated to you within 3 weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Treacy,
Higher Executive Officer,
Drugs Policy & Social Inclusion Unit,
Department of Health,
Block 1 Miesian Plaza,
50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin 2
DO2 XW14.

Email: gillian_treacy@health.gov.ie

Freedom of Information Act, 2014

Summary of Review Rights under the Act

INTERNAL REVIEW

A final decision on your request will normally be sent to you within four weeks of receipt of request. Where it is necessary to seek deposits, to consult third parties or to refine the scope of a request, this deadline is extended appropriately.

You are entitled to an internal review on your request where the Department:

- • Refuses your FOI request
- • Excludes all or part of particular records
- • Gives access in a form other than that which you requested
- • Charges a fee or a deposit
- • Does not issue a decision within the legislative timeframe
- • Refuses an application requesting reasons for ‘acts of the body’
- • Refuses to amend a record containing personal information about you.

You can appeal in writing (or by email to: **foi@health.gov.ie**) to the FOI Officer at the address below. You should:

- • State the details of your initial request
- • State what decision or action you wish to have reviewed
- • State the reasons why you believe our response has been inadequate, and
- • Include an upfront fee of €30 to be paid by **ELECTRONIC TRANSFER ONLY**. Bank details are attached.

The review is a full and new consideration of the matter carried out in accordance with the Department’s internal review procedures.

You would normally have 4 weeks, from the due date of a decision OR from the date of receipt of a decision, to make such an appeal. The appeal may be made later in appropriate circumstances.

*There is no fee for review applications concerning only personal information relating to oneself or in relation to decisions to impose a fee. A reduced fee of **€10** applies if the person bringing the application is a medical card holder or a dependant of a medical card holder.

REVIEW BY THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

If, following an internal review, you are not satisfied with the Department's response; you may appeal in writing to the Information Commissioner at 6 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, D02 W773.

A fee of €50 must accompany most applications for a review by the Information Commissioner.

A reduced fee of €15 applies if you are covered by a medical card or in relation to a review concerning certain third-party information. Again, there is no fee for review applications concerning only personal information relating to oneself or in relation to decisions to impose fees or deposits.

Freedom of Information Unit, 7th Floor, Miesian Plaza, D02 XW14