[21/4/2023]

Thomas Kerin

**Re: FOI request** FOI-0096-2023

Dear Thomas,

I refer to your request made under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 where you sought:

1. Any records held by, or correspondence received by the Department of Health regarding the Stakeholders meeting of the Citizens Assembly on Drug Use.
2. Any correspondence or meeting minutes between the Department of Health (or any of its officials) and Prof Bobby Smyth (2022 - present)
3. Any correspondence or meeting minutes between the Department of Health (or any of its officiala) and Prof Mary Cannon (2022 - present)
4. Any correspondence or meeting minutes between Department of Health (or any of its officials) and Prof Ray Wally (2022 - present)
5. Any correspondence or meeting minutes between the Department of Health ( or any of its officials) and the Cannabis Risk Alliance

I, as the Deciding Officer, have now made a final decision to part grant your request in relation to your request number 1 above, but refuse your requests numbered 3 - 5 above on 21/04/2023 in accordance with the Section 15(1)(a) of the Act.

This section states that an FOI request may be refused if: *'****the record concerned does not exist*** *or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken.'*

Steps taken in this Department to locate the records included search of all files and computer files.

In my opinion, all practical & possible means of finding such records were used. However, no records were found nor is there any indication that such records ever existed.

In relation to your request number 5 above, these records were previously released to you under FOI on 25/03/2021.

**Rights of appeal**

The Act requires that you be advised of your Rights of Review, and I would refer you to the enclosed information sheet.

**Publication**

All non-personal FOI requests will be recorded on an FOI disclosure log which will be published on the Department of Health website in due course.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me by email at Mary -Jane\_Trimble@health.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Jane Trimble

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Drugs Policy and Social Inclusion Union

Department of Health