

Private & Confidential

[REDACTED]

29 March 2022

Our Ref. FOIR 025 022

Re: – FOI Decision (Refuse)

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act) 2014. The request was the following:

1. Has Nphet carried out a risk assessment and risk/benefit analysis in relation to the imposition of masks on our children and teens in our schools.
- 2 Has Nphet requested an updated report from HIQA with regard to the continued imposition of face mask wearing by children and teens in a school setting? If not why not?
- .3 Who are the experts on masking that Nphet has employed or what make Nphet members experts on this.
4. On what basis does Nphet state mask wearing in schools should continue, in view of their removal from society and schools in UK and other EU countries?

I emailed you on 11 February 2022 to attempt to agree a more specific description of the records involved, which we would then use to identify the actual records which relate to your request. I wrote to you again on 21 February 2022 to explain formally that your request did not contain sufficient particulars to enable the records sought to be identified and to offer further assistance to you with your request.

I have now made a final decision to refuse your request based on Section 12(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 12(1)(b), of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, requires that you, the requester, give us 'sufficient particulars' to enable us to identify the records you require. We are then required to take 'reasonable steps' to identify and locate those records.

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- 12.** (1) *A person who wishes to exercise the right of access shall make a request, in writing or in such other form as may be determined, addressed to the head of the FOI body concerned for access to the record concerned—*
- (b) *containing sufficient particulars in relation to the information concerned to enable the record to be identified by the taking of reasonable steps,*

Rights of appeal

If you are unhappy with this decision you may seek an internal review. In the event that you wish to do so, please e-mail foi@hiqa.ie. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of HIQA. Please note that a fee of €30 (€10 for medical card holders) applies in the case of an internal review.

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.

Publication

It is the policy of HIQA to make decisions on non-personal FOI requests, including this decision letter and a copy of the records released, available to the public on our website <https://www.hiqa.ie/about-us/freedom-of-information>. Any personal information relating to you, such as your name etc. will be removed from the decision letter before this happens. This decision letter and the records released under FOI, will be added to our website approximately one week after today's date.

If you have any queries in relation to this decision, please feel free to contact me on foi@hiqa.ie or 085 8050586

Yours sincerely,

Sean Lynch
Freedom of Information Officer