

25 April 2019

Our Reference: CAS-420191-N2CWFB

Steiner Waldorf School Fellowship

By email:

[request-556079-
526f461e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-556079-526f461e@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Sirs

Your request for information

Thank you for your email of 26 March 2019, in which you requested disclosure of information via the whatdotheyknow website in relation to the following inspections - Beechtree Steiner Initiative (URN 144620) on 12 June 2018, Greenwich Steiner School (URN 132086) on 27 November 2018, and Iona Steiner School (URN 122941) on 4 December 2018. Specifically:

"copies of briefing material made available to Ofsted inspectors preparatory to the inspections and records of emails or other written exchanges within Ofsted discussing the outcome/grading of these schools, or commenting on the (as yet unpublished) reports."

The Freedom of Information Act

We are dealing with your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. The first requirement of the Act is that we should confirm whether or not we hold information of the description set out in your request.

I can confirm that we hold information that falls within the scope of your request; however we believe that the exemption at section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act applies to that information.

Section 31(1)(g) of the FOI Act states that "*information (...) is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—*

*(1)(g) the exercise by any public authority of its functions for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2),
[...]*

(2)(c) the purpose of ascertaining whether circumstances which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment exist or may arise".

The findings of independent school inspections are used by the Secretary of State to determine whether regulatory action is required, pursuant to their powers under the

Education and Skills Act 2008, and therefore this exemption would apply where disclosure would be likely to harm any of the functions concerned with this type of regulatory activity.

Section 31 is a qualified exemption and, in deciding whether we should refuse to disclose certain information under it, we are also required to consider whether the public interest in maintaining it outweighs that in release of the information.

Under section 10(3) of the Act, we are able to extend the statutory time limit of 20 working days, where we require more time to consider whether the balance of the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption or disclosing the information. This consideration of the public interest is still ongoing in relation to your request, therefore we will not be in a position to respond by the original target date provided to you.

We will write to you again as soon as this decision-making process is complete, with our final response. If you have any questions about this letter, please email our Information Rights and Access Team at informationrequest@ofsted.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Sophie Young
Principal Officer, Unregistered and Independent Schools