

Shauna Corr

Response issued via email: request-582292-401184a8@whatdotheyknow.com

1 July 2019

Dear Ms Corr

Freedom of Information Request – Ref 3069

I write on behalf of the Education Authority in response to the request you submitted to the Authority dated 10 June 2019, which was managed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find below, the Education Authority's response to the information requested.

Can you tell me when Northern Ireland schools were made exempt from fair employment law please?

Schools are not exempt from 'fair employment law', however Article 71 of the Fair Employment and Treatment Order (NI) Order 1998 (FETO) exempts teachers from some provisions of the Order. Teachers in Schools are exempt from monitoring of "Community Background" during recruitment to a school. There is also no requirement to monitor the Community Background of "Teachers in Schools" during appointment, employment or promotion.

Can you also tell me if schools have to report back on their staff numbers and the religion of those staff, and if they have used this exemption in their employment practices and if EA keeps those figures please?

Schools are not required to monitor the community background of their teaching staff, therefore, in compliance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, the Education Authority can confirm it does not hold this information.

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Teachers undertaking roles outside of school, such as for example peripatetic teaching, are subject to the provisions of the Order. The Authority can confirm it holds this information.

All non-teaching staff in schools are subject to Fair Employment Monitoring and as the employing authority, the Education Authority can confirm it holds this information.

If I can assist further with this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of this response or the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal it within two calendar months of the date of this response, by writing directly to:

Head of Communications
Education Authority
Academy Street
Belfast
BT1 2NQ

In the event that you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to complain further to the Information Commissioner's Office at the address below:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01 625 54 57 45/0303 123 1113 or
www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Diane Wilson

Diane Wilson
Information Governance Unit

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Education Authority

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