



Education & Skills Funding Agency
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Via email :

request-491525-ea9d2917@whatdotheyknow.com

11 September 2018

Ref: ENQ-272607-N8D1Y419/06/2018

Dear Dr Hearle

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 16 June 2018 by email.

You requested:

Please could you send me any communication between Department for Education and its Partnership for Schools division with the Durand Academy group of interrelated entities including London Horizons, Durand Education Trust and Durand Foundation School that concerns the purchase of the St Cuthmans site in Stedham, West Sussex between the period November 2009 and November 2010. In particular, any communication that expresses support or otherwise by the DfE of the purchase of the site by Durand Education Trust in June 2010 including any knowledge of the 1st April 2010 sale agreement between Alderley Land and London Horizons Limited that conditioned the purchase.

It is in the public interest to know what, if any, assurances were given that the Government of the day or the Opposition would support the purchase of the site without carrying out the necessary due diligence ahead of approval of the business case for what turned out to be a deeply flawed and subsequently failed project for a free state boarding school.

Further to my letter of 21 June 2018 the Department has decided that the public interest lies in disclosing the information we hold. A copy of the information is enclosed.

I can also confirm that although we do not hold the replies to the letters the (then) Secretary of State did not visit the St Cuthmans site.

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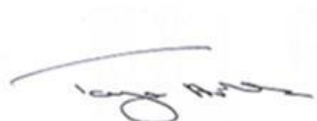
If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, who were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely

Tanya Arkle

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tanya Arkle', with a long horizontal stroke above it.

Education and Skills Funding Agency

Deputy Director, Academy Programme (South)