



Education
Funding
Agency

Mr Alasdair Nagle
via email

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om](mailto:request-366625-141ea9b9@whatdotheyknow.com)

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12 December 2016

Dear Mr Nagle,

FOI: 2016-0049083/ENQ-189817-C1V3Z9

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 20 October 2016. We apologise again for the delay in responding to you. You requested:

- A copy of the recent report by PricewaterhouseCoopers into the finances of Durand Academy that was commissioned by the EFA

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

The Department holds the information you requested, but it is being withheld because the following exemption(s) apply to this information:

Section 36(2)

This information has been judged, in the reasonable view of a qualified person, to be exempt under Section 36(2) as its release would likely inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation and prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs

Further to our previous letter dated 17 November 2016, the Department has also considered whether the public interest lies in disclosing or withholding the information. The Department has decided that the public interest lies in withholding the information.

There is a public interest in releasing information because of the importance of openness and accountability in the government's decision making process and the factors that informs those decisions.

In this case, the key factors in the Secretary of State's decision to issue the Pre-Termination and Intention to Terminate Notices, have already been published in the notices themselves. Disclosing the information that falls within the terms of your request would likely have a prejudicial effect on future discussions between the EFA and DAT and therefore on both parties' ability to resolve our concerns, which is not in the public interest.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. 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 us 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,

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

Tanya Arkle
Deputy Director – Academies South