

Tel: 0370 000 2288

www.gov.uk/dfe

Email enquiry form:

www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

12 January 2021

Dear Andrew Keenan,

We wrote to you on 16 December to offer our apologies for the delay in responding to your FOI request.

I can confirm that the Department holds some of the information you have requested and will be releasing some of the data. However, as previously stated, I consider that the following exemption(s) apply to your request:

- Section 35(1)(a) – the formulation or development of government policy

Unfortunately, the Department estimates that it will take additional time to finalise the public interest test, we aim to send a full response by 8 February 2021. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The Department takes very seriously its obligations under the Act, including the requirement to respond within the statutory deadline of 20 working days. I am afraid that we have not been able to maintain this standard in this instance and while there may be considered to be mitigating circumstances, this delay is not acceptable and I am very sorry for the inconvenience which it may cause you.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number 2020-0064809 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, which 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,

HE Briefing Team
Department for Education