

REDACTED

From: James Westhead <jwesthead@teachfirst.org.uk> .
Sent: 17 July 2017 17:37
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Request - Teach First
Attachments: Teach First - Scottish Government FOI Request - . FOI1701247 .pdf

Dear REDACTED

Please find attached a response to your letter dated 12th July, ref: FOI/17/01247.

Best

James

James Westhead
Executive Director
REDACTED

TeachFirst

From: REDACTED

Sent: 12 July 2017 15:34
To: James Westhead <jwesthead@teachfirst.org.uk>
Cc: REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED
Subject: Freedom of Information Request - Teach First
Importance: High

Please see attached letter. Grateful for a response before Monday 17 July please.

Many thanks
REDACTED



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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlaradh neo air a sgrUdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-eifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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REDACTED
Head of
Qualifications Team
Scottish Government
Area 28 South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Monday 17 July 2017

Dear REDACTED,

Re: Response to **FOI/17/01247**

I am writing in response to your correspondence on 12 July 2017 requesting our view in relation to a Freedom of Information request (FOI/17/01247) within which we have an interest. We also received a similar request from your colleague, REDACTED under FOI/17/01460. I would ask that you consider both our responses alongside each other, given they pertain to the same information.

According to your letter, the request is for:

1. Records of any meetings between representatives of the Scottish government and representatives of Teach First
2. Documentation associated with any meetings between representatives of the Scottish government and representatives of Teach First, including minutes (if no minutes or other documents exist please make this clear)
3. Full details of any communication between representatives of the Scottish government and representatives of Teach First (including copies of written correspondence and records of telephone calls)
4. Full details of, and associated documentation for, any Scottish government meetings or events to which Teach First representatives have been invited.

Our understanding of this request is that it asks for two categories of information: an official minute or record of meetings/phone calls between the Scottish Government and Teach First (points 1, 2, 3, 4); and, any written correspondence or written papers associated with engagement between the Scottish Government and Teach First (points 2, 3, 4).

With reference, to the first category of information, I would kindly refer you to our response on Monday 17 July 2017 to your letter ascertaining our views on FOI/17/01460. We would request that consideration is given to withholding this information under Part 2, Section 33, Subsection 1(b), under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - "Commercial Interests and the Economy" for the reasons outlined in that response for the purposes of this request also.

In relation to the second category of information, we would kindly request that you withhold the below documents under Part 2, Section 33, Subsection 1(b), under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - "Commercial Interests and the Economy".

Our view is that this information qualifies for this exemption for two reasons:

1. The discussions involved commercially sensitive information in relation to Teach First, including details of our internal processes, and our contractual relationships in other countries and with other governments; and,

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2. The discussions involved commercially sensitive information in relation to a potential Teach First programme in Scotland. Given that the Scottish Government has announced its intention to tender for a new initial teacher training pathway, we are concerned that publication, interpretation and comment on this information in the national media will compromise the fairness of the open competition and unfairly prejudice our submission, should we choose to make one.

The documents we refer to are as follows:

1. The document presented on 10 January 2017 to the Deputy First Minister outlining how a Scottish programme would work and the corresponding timescales. This was presented in hard copy.¹
2. Follow up briefing note sent to the Deputy First Minister on 18 January 2017 that highlights further information on the impact of TF and a summary of the proposed Scottish model.²
3. Letter sent to the Deputy First Minister on 12 May 2017.³

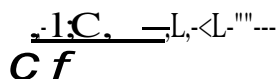
In addition, we understand that the Scottish Government has to make a judgement on the consideration for exemption alongside public interest. However, in our view it is already widely known and in the public domain that we are interested in working in partnership to deliver a programme in Scotland. This has been extensively reported in the Scottish national media and been subject to scrutiny in the Scottish Parliament. Therefore, on balance we do not see the additional public interest in releasing this additional commercially sensitive information.

Furthermore, we understand that further information in relation to our correspondence and engagement with the Scottish Government prior to 2016 has already been released. We were unaware that a request had been submitted, and would be grateful if you could provide us with a list of the information released.

Additionally, we trust that any disclosures made will be redacted to remove any personal data or sensitive personal data relating to employees, associates or suppliers for Teach First, in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Thank you for the courtesy of contacting us on this matter, and for your consideration. We would kindly ask that you inform us as to your decision.

Yours sincerely,
James Westhead

The logo for Teach First, featuring the letters 'C' and 'F' in a stylized, bold font.

Executive Director
Teach First

¹ This entire document outlines a potential Teach First programme model in Scotland. We believe this document, in its entirety, is compliant with the grounds for exemption we have outlined. Publication of this document could, in our view, compromise the fairness of the open competition for a new route into teaching recently announced by the Scottish Government.

² Page 1 and 2 of this document outline commercially sensitive information similar to that in previous documents. For the same reasons, I would ask that publication of this document is withheld on the same grounds for exemption.

³ Paragraphs 7-19 of this document contain commercially sensitive information in relation to our contractual relationships in other countries and with other governments, as well as details pertaining to our interest in the forthcoming public tender process for a new route into teaching. Publication of this information could, in our view, be detrimental to our contractual relationships in other countries and compromise our ability to compete in a fair and open competition for a new route into teaching in Scotland.