

## **DE/2026-033 – Freedom of Information Request**

### **Request:**

If there were any internal or external communications from the department to or from Lisneal College in Derry from 1 January 2025 to the latest date possible in 2026, can you please share them?

If any briefings/advice was given to Minister Givan about a sports dome at Lisneal College over the same period, please share it.

If the Minister was given any briefings/advice about the potential for sports dome at any schools in Northern Ireland, over the same period, please share it.

There was to be a review of the school building handbook by an expert panel, I believe. Can you please tell me if their discussions included sports facilities at schools?

If so, can you please outline any plans or modifications of the school building handbook they considered related to sports?

And if they looked at the possibility of sports domes being built in future?

Or how schools could apply for larger projects if sharing their pitch with a local sports club?

### **Department Response:**

I refer to your request of 26 February 2026 under the above legislation and your subsequent clarification, which was received by e-mail on 3 March 2026. I shall respond to each question in turn.

- 1. If there were any internal or external communications from the Department to or from Lisneal College in Derry from 1 January 2025 to the latest date possible in 2026, can you please share them?***

In your clarification received on 3 March 2026, you clarified that this request is connected to a sports dome.

I wish to advise you that following a search of our records, the Department of Education has no records of internal or external communications between the Department and Lisneal College on the subject of a sports dome between 1 January 2025 and 1 April 2026.

- 2. If any briefings/advice was given to Minister Givan about a sports dome at Lisneal College over the same period, please share it.***

I wish to advise you that following a search of our records, the Minister was not provided with any briefings/advice about a sports dome at Lisneal College between 1 January 2025 and 1 April 2026.

**3. If the Minister was given any briefings/advice about the potential for sports dome at any schools in Northern Ireland, over the same period, please share it.**

I wish to advise you that following a search of our records, the information you have requested is not held by the Department of Education. The Minister was not provided with any briefings/advice about sports domes at any schools in Northern Ireland between 1 January 2025 and 1 April 2026.

**4. There was to be a review of the school building handbook by an expert panel, I believe. Can you please tell me if their discussions included sports facilities at schools?**

The position in relation to the review of the school building handbook remains as per the response to FOI DE/2025-0273, which issued to you on 7 January 2026.

The DE Building Handbooks are reviewed periodically to ensure they reflect curriculum delivery. The most recent update to the post primary handbook was published on the Department's website in January 2025. The main updates related to Specialist Provision Centre and Hygiene Room. You can access the Department's post primary handbook via the following link:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/section-4-post-primary-schools>

The next review will focus on the Primary School Handbook. Parameters for the review and personnel have yet to be agreed.

**5. If so, can you please outline any plans or modifications of the school building handbook they considered related to sports? And if they looked at the possibility of sports domes being built in future?**

Please see response to Q4 above

**6. Or how schools could apply for larger projects if sharing their pitch with a local sports club?**

The Department of Education's Curriculum-led Capital Investment Programme aims to target investment in priority areas that will support and enhance delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The initial curricular area of focus of the programme is Physical Education, initially through a pilot exercise for the provision of covered sports spaces for primary schools, and synthetic pitches and sports halls for post-primary settings who do not have this provision. Sport NI manage the "Your School Your Club" (YSYC) programme, which seeks to promote community use of school sports facilities outside of normal school hours. Further information on this programme, including any current funding calls, may be held by Sport NI. Freedom of Information Requests may be submitted, either in writing or by email, to [info@sportni.net](mailto:info@sportni.net).