

## **DE/2026-056– Freedom of Information Request**

### **Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request:

All communications between the Department and the Education Authority relating to:

SEN Summer Schemes;

The cancellation and reinstatement of these schemes;

Any briefings, submissions, or advice provided to Ministers or senior officials regarding:

The cancellation decision;

The reversal of that decision;

Internal departmental communications discussing these matters.

For all records, please provide dates, names/roles of senders and recipients and any attachments.

Please include communications with other departments where relevant.

### **Department Response:**

Thank you for your request for information relating to **SEN Summer Schemes: Ministerial Briefings and Communications**. The request was received on **27 March 2026** and the Department is dealing with it under the terms of the above legislation.

I am writing to advise that the Department has completed a search of its records and can confirm that we hold information which is relevant to your request.

However, it has become apparent that the collection of this information would involve a significant diversion of staff resources and we have estimated that the costs involved in identifying, locating and extracting the documentation involved would exceed the FOI limit for central government of £600.

As a result, the Department is not obliged to comply with your request under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Annex A provides further information regarding this exemption

The information requested is very extensive, and therefore we have determined that your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit set by section 12 of the [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#). Upon an initial search of documents which may contain information about your request, over 740 items were found. Specifically, even if five minutes were allocated to each item, we estimate that locating, retrieving, and compiling the information would take approximately 62 hours (over 7 working days), costing around £1,550

Since the FOI was requested a significant amount of information has been published through the Assembly Question process at [Questions Search](#). You may wish to use Summer Schemes, or similar words, as keywords/phrase

If you wish to narrow the scope of your request it may be possible to provide information within the cost limit.

If you wish to redefine your request or discuss our decision not to proceed with your request, please contact [csep@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:csep@education-ni.gov.uk). Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. However, submission of a refined request would be treated as a new request and considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including consideration of relevant Part II exemptions.