

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST FOI/DE/2023-0098

Exemption in full:	Section 35 (1) Information held in relation to – (a) Formulation of Government policy
Factors for disclosure: 1) The right of the public to have access to information	Factors for withholding: 1) The correspondence contains the private views of senior officials, not intended for public release. 2) Disclosure could hinder future free and frank provision of advice. 3) The approach to RAAC is policy under development.
Reasons why public interest favours withholding information:	<p>The Department have informed the public of their approach to RAAC in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Department and the Education Authority (EA) have written to all schools. ii. The Department provided an update at a political briefing 13 September 2023. iii. EA have provided an update to the media. <p>The information contained in the correspondence does not provide substantial benefit to the public regarding decision making or the approach to RAAC but stands to negatively impact the sharing of views and information for the formulation of government policy.</p>

Type of Document	Applicable Exemption
ED1/23/184143 - email	Section 35 – formulation of government policy
ED1/23/198056 - letter	Section 35 – formulation of government policy
ED1/23/215859 - letter	Section 35 – formulation of government policy