

REDACTED

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From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: James Westhead <jwesthead@teachfirst.org.uk>  
 To: 17 July 2017 17:32  
 Subject: REDACTED  
 Attach ments: RE: Freedom of Information Request  
 Teach First - Scottish Government FOI Request - FOI1701460.pdf

Dear REDACTED

Please find attached a response to your letter dated 12 July 2017, ref: FOI/17/01460.Best

James

James Westhead  
 Executive Director  
 Direct line -REDACTED

From: REDACTED  
 Sent: 12 July 2017 15:41  
 To: James Westhead <jwesthead@teachfirst.org.uk>  
 Subject: Freedom of Information Request

Please find attached a letter from the Scottish Government.

REDACTED  
 Learning Directorate  
 Scottish  
 Government 2-A  
 South  
 Victoria Quay  
 Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
 REDACTED  
 Tell us how to make  
 Scottish education  
 even better:  
[www.engageforeducation.org](http://www.engageforeducation.org)

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REDACTED  
Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-A South  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

Monday 17 July 2017

Dear REDACTED

Re: Response to FOI/17/01460

I am writing in response to your correspondence on 12 July 2017 requesting our view in relation to a Freedom of Information request (FOI/17/01460) within which we have an interest. We also received a similar request from your colleague, REDACTED, under FOI/17/01247. 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 "Copy of the minutes for each of the three meetings between the Scottish Government and Teach First held on 10 January 2017, 21 September 2016 and 26 August 2016, as detailed in Parliamentary Question S5W-09678".

To our knowledge, the documents in question do not exist, and if an official minute of each of these meetings was produced, it was not shared with us. Therefore, without having seen the information that has been requested it is difficult to ascertain the impact of its publication on our organisation, and outline the specific detail which we believe would qualify for exemption.

However, given the detail and the nature of the discussion, we would ask that you consider withholding this information 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,
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.

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.

# TeachFirst

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Westhead', written in a cursive style.

**Executive Director  
Teach First**