

28 February 2019

Mr Jolley
(via email)

Dear Mr Jolley

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request sent via email and received by us on 12 February 2019.

Your request was in the form of the following questions:

1. I would like to know if you approached DfE for help or if DfE approached you (if there is a letter 'inviting' you to join, I would like to see the correspondence).
2. I would like to know the sums the advisor suggested could be saved and over what period these savings were calculated.
3. Finally I would like to see a copy of the report produced by the resource management advisor. Obviously this will contain some personal information that will need to be redacted, but there is a clear public interest in demonstrating that the £35 million claimed savings are real and achievable, not simply 'cut your colour photocopying, 'have more NQTs' or 'sell some land'.

The answers to your questions can be found in the attached documentation (email to Edward Vitalis 3 July 2018 and letter from the ESFA 8 January 2018).

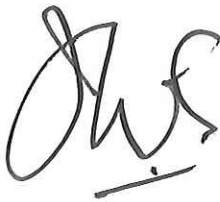
I hope that this answers your request satisfactorily.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should e-mail admin@bfet.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints' procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SO 5AF

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of Bright Futures Educational Trust

Edward Vitalis

From:
Sent: 03 July 2018 08:49
To: Edward Vitalis
Subject: ESFA/DFE

Hi Edward

Hope you had a good weekend.

I've spoken to [redacted] and [redacted] following our meetings and correspondence. The main points for follow up between you and the ESFA would be as follows:

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- We discussed how some of the work on procurement had now started and should realise future savings – particularly around contract management and IT. Whilst these savings aren't yet known it would be worth adding comments within your recovery plan. Again as a comment against a relevant budget line and/or a summary sheet. For indicative purposes I've suggested £60k per annum could be saved on IT. This would be based on improved lifecycle management costs and switching to cloud based provision across the Trust – however, until Cloud IT have done a review this won't be known. In addition further savings were estimated for contracts but this, as discussed is purely and indicative figure (5%-10%), and would only be known when re-tendered.
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As far as I am aware the SMRA visit should now be concluded and you should be in a position to submit your recovery plan to the ESFA.

Thank you for your engagement in the process and the amount of time you have spent in preparation.

Kind regards



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

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Education & Skills
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Mr John Stephens
Accounting Officer
Bright Futures Educational Trust
The Lodge House
Cavendish Road
Altrincham
WA14 2NJ

8 January 2018

Dear John

Bright Futures Educational Trust

I am writing about the Financial Notice to Improve (the Notice) which was issued to Bright Futures Educational Trust on 23 February 2016 and the recovery plan submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 18 September 2017.

As you are aware, the Notice placed a number of conditions upon the trust and these have not been met.

