

Mr. Joe Noonan
Noonan Linehan Carrol Coffey LLP Solicitors
By Email: pcoffey@nlcc.ie

11th November 2025

Your ref: 21407-24/JN/PW
Our ref: FOI-0143-2025 (& AIE08-2025)

Dear Mr. Noonan,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI) for records held by the Health and Safety Authority in relation to:

- a proposed development of a waste incinerator in Ringaskiddy, County Cork.

Your request dated 17th October 2025 was received by the Health and Safety Authority on 17th October 2025. As Decision Maker in this case, I have now made a final decision on 11th November 2025 to part grant your request. It should be noted this site is not subject to the COMAH Regulations, as set out in the planning application and associated documents, which are publicly available at www.pleanala.ie. I am answering your request through FOI processes and I confirm that nothing further is available for access through AIE processes.

This letter explains my decision and has four parts:

1. Schedule of records
2. Access arrangements
3. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access.
4. Right of appeal

1. Schedule of records

A schedule is enclosed with this letter which lists the records which fall within the scope of your request. It provides you with a summary and overview of the decision as a whole and a brief description of exemptions used to prevent the release of information.

2. Access arrangements

You have sought access by means of copies and I consider this an appropriate form of access in this case. Accordingly, the records described as Granted or Part granted on the schedule of records are being released to you by post or email.

3. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access.

The sections of the Act that can apply to deny access to documents are known as

exemptions. I have applied Section 37 (1) of the FOI Act to the records associated with this request.

Section 37(1) – personal information

Section 37(1) of the FOI Act provides:

37. (1) Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).

Section 37(1) is a mandatory exemption and must be applied to information if consent to its release has not been received from the individual to whom it relates. Subject to this section of the Act, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if in the opinion of the head access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information relating to third parties. “Personal Information” means information about an identifiable individual that would, in the ordinary course of events, be known only to the individual or members of the family, or friends, of the individual, or is held by a public body on the understanding that it would be treated by it as confidential.

You should note that the provision in the Act regarding personal information, as explained above, does not apply to members of staff of a public body in the course of the performance of the functions of that body. Accordingly, I have not redacted names of HSA personnel.

This exemption is subject to a public interest test. There is a public interest in protecting privacy and in maintaining the personal privacy of individuals. There is also public interest in a requester being able to exercise his/her rights under the FOI Act. On balance, I have found nothing in this case that warrants the release of third-party personal information and the right to privacy of the individual to whom the information relates should be upheld.

4. Rights of appeal

You may appeal this decision. In the event that you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by emailing the Freedom of Information Officer at foi@hsa.ie. In accordance with the Freedom of Information (Fees) Regulations 2014 a fee of €30 (or €10 reduced fee) must accompany your appeal. This fee can be paid by electronic bank transfer, cheque or bank draft or payable order, details can be requested by email to the above address.

You should make your appeal within four weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of the Health and Safety Authority.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Collins,

Data Protection and Freedom of Information (FOI) Unit