

15/01/2026

Re: Freedom of Information Request 202520 – Request Part Granted

Dear

I refer to your request dated and received on 06/11/2025, subsequent correspondence to reduce the scope of the request, and the extension of the request on the 18/12/2025, which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this FOI body:

“Any video footage or pictures of the inside or outside of the old Central Mental Hospital that were gathered to inform any aspect of the design and planning of the Strategic Housing Development ref ABP31317622. This relates to video and photos only in any file format they exist. Where they have been transferred to a pdf I would seek the original image where available and I do not require any duplicates. This request should include any material gathered by agents acting for or on behalf the Agency or any consultants, such as architectural or heritage experts, even where this is held by the those agents.”

In subsequent correspondence with the FOI Officer this scope was reduced to video footage only.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 15/01/2026.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

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

On receipt your request was forwarded to the relevant sections within the LDA to identify records held which were within the scope of your request.

The records requested are attached to this decision letter for your information. Please note that in the ordinary course of events we would upload the records with the decision on the LDA website after a period usually not exceeding 3 months. However, due to the size of the video recordings we will not be able to do so here.

A number of redactions have also been applied to the attached records under Section 37 of the Act. These redactions are detailed in the Schedule of Records in **Appendix 1**.

Section 37-Personal Information

Under the FOI Act, records are released without any restriction as to how they may be used and thus, release under the FOI Act, is in effect, and regarded as being released to the world at large. As a result, I am conscious of my obligations to retain personal information in a confidential and secure manner and prevent personal information from being released into the public domain unnecessarily.

On viewing the footage, I determined that three of the videos contained images of people who would be identifiable if the footage was released unredacted. Additionally, one of the videos included registration plates from which the registered owner may be identified.

Section 2 of the FOI Act defines personal information as follows:

2. (1) In this Act

"personal information" means information about an identifiable individual that, either

(a) would, in the ordinary course of events, be known only to the individual or members of the family, or friends, of the individual, or

(b) is held by an FOI body on the understanding that it would be treated by that body as confidential, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes

(iii) information relating to the employment or employment history of the individual,

Section 37(1) provides that a public body shall refuse to grant a request if access to the records concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information. I am satisfied that parts of certain records relate to third parties outside of the LDA and I am satisfied that the records consist of personal information. For this reason, I am releasing the records with the identifiable people redacted from the footage.

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).

As section 37 requires a public interest test be carried out. I have considered the public interest issues which arise in this case and have taken account of the following factors in favour of release:

- Ensuring openness and transparency of organisational functions to the greatest possible extent.
- The public interest in members of the public exercising their rights under the FOI Act.
- That there is more than just a transitory interest by the public in this information.
- The right to privacy is outweighed by the needs of the public.

In considering the public interest factors which favour withholding the records, I have taken account of the following:

- The public interest is not best served by releasing these records.
- That the Organisation can conduct its business in a confidential manner.
- That there is a reasonable and implied expectation that sensitive personal information will remain confidential.
- That there is no overriding public interest that outweighs the individual's right to privacy.
- Allowing a public body to hold personal information without undue access by members of the public.

Having balanced the public interest factors both for and against the release, I decided that the public interest in preserving the information and the reasonable expectation that information can be maintained in a confidential manner by the LDA outweighs the public interest which would be served were the details released to you. For this reason, we are part-granting your request with recording of people redacted through blurring of those people.

2. Right of Appeal

In the event that you are unhappy with this decision you may appeal against it. If you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Land Development Agency, 4th Floor, Ashford House, Tara Street, Dublin 2 or by e-mail to foi@lda.ie.

Please note that a fee applies. This fee has been set at €30 (€10 for a Medical Card holder). Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque, and made payable to Head of Finance, Land Development Agency, 4th Floor, Ashford House, Tara Street, Dublin 2.

Payment can be made by electronic means, using the following details:

The Land Development Agency DAC
IE61AIBK93101264101092
BIC: AIBKIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (**FOI 202520**) is included in the payment details.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks of the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding the weekend and public holidays.



An Ghníomhaireacht um Fhorbairt Talún
The Land Development Agency

However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Please be advised that the Land Development Agency replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website at lda.ie.

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on (01) 9103400.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Szyszko'.

Monika Szyszko,
Senior Compliance Manager

Appendix 1: Schedule of Records

Requester name:		Request Re:202520			
Page number	Description of document	Deletions	Relevant section of FOI Act	Reasons for deletion	Decision Maker's decision
NA	Record 1 22 seconds of video	1 person face 1 second at end of video, 9 registration plates between 5 seconds and 20 seconds in	37	Personal Information	Part-Grant
NA	Record 2 5 seconds of video	NA	NA	NA	Grant
NA	Record 3 9 seconds of video	NA	NA	NA	Grant
NA	Record 4 5 seconds of video	NA	NA	NA	Grant
NA	Record 5 6 seconds of video	NA	NA	NA	Grant
NA	Record 6 12 seconds of video	2 people blurred approx. 3 seconds in to approx. 5 seconds	37	Personal Information	Part-Grant
NA	Record 7 5 seconds of video	4 people blurred approx. 2 seconds to 4 seconds	37	Personal Information	Part-Grant
		Total number of seconds			42
		Total number of seconds for full release			19
		Total number of seconds for partial release			23
		Total number of seconds being withheld			0