

Edwina Leonard

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To: Edwina Leonard
Subject: Email Reply from Private Secretary

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Ms. Edwina Leonard

Staff Officer

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PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Ref: CU00327-2018

Dear Ms. Leonard,

I refer to your recent correspondence to the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Joe McHugh TD, regarding a new school building in the Tallaght region.

In order to plan for school provision and analyse the relevant demographic data, the Department divides the country into 314 school planning areas and uses a Geographical Information System, using data from a range of sources, to identify where the pressure for school places across the country will arise. With this information, the Department carries out nationwide demographic exercises to determine where additional school accommodation is needed at primary and post-primary level.

Where demographic data indicates that additional provision is required, the delivery of such additional provision is dependent on the particular circumstances of each case and may, depending on the circumstances, be provided through either one, or a combination of, the following:

- Utilising existing unused capacity within a school or schools,
- Extending the capacity of a school or schools,
- Provision of a new school or schools.

As you will be aware, in April 2018 the Government announced plans for the establishment of 42 new schools over the next four years (2019 to 2022). This announcement follows nationwide demographic exercises carried out by the Department into the future need for primary and post-primary schools across the country and the 4-year horizon will enable increased lead-in times for planning and delivery of the necessary infrastructure.

In addition to the new schools announced, there will be a need for further school accommodation in other areas in the future.

While the announcement did not include a new post-primary school in Tallaght Region, the Minister has highlighted that the requirement for new schools will be kept under on-going review and in particular would have regard for the increased rollout of housing provision as outlined in Project Ireland 2040.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Newcombe
Private Secretary