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10 June 2013

Deborah Weston

Our Reference: CAS-258020-CT8GJ2

Dear Ms Weston

### **Your request for information**

Thank you for your email of 19 May 2013 to Ofsted's Information Management Team in which you requested, on behalf of NATRE, (The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education):

*Since the beginning of inspection under the current framework for the inspection of schools (section 5):*

*(A) How many reports have made specific mention of a maintained school failing to meet its statutory duties in relation to RE?*

*(B) How many reports have made specific mention of an academy or free school failing to meet its contractual obligations in relation to RE as defined in their funding agreements?*

### **The Freedom of Information Act**

We have dealt with your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

The first requirement of the Act is that we should confirm whether or not we hold information of the description set out in your request. I can confirm that we hold inspection reports for all completed inspections which have taken place under the current framework.

The focus of the current Section 5 inspection is on the overall effectiveness of a school, rather than compliance with specific curriculum requirements. The key judgements inspectors make under the terms of that framework are on the achievement of pupils, the quality of teaching, the behaviour and safety of pupils;

and the quality of leadership and management. However, the guidance to inspectors<sup>1</sup> makes it clear that 'where a school does not provide the National Curriculum and RE, inspectors will need to fully explore the school's reasons.'

Under the FOI Act, we are under a duty to provide you with all the information we hold which falls within the scope of your request, provided it is not 'exempt' information.

In response to your specific questions, we have undertaken a keyword search of the Section 5 reports published since September 2012. We can advise that no reports on maintained schools or academies make specific mention of a failure to meet statutory or contractual obligations in relation to RE.

I trust that this letter clearly explains our position. If you have any queries about our response, then please contact me on [mike.hoban@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:mike.hoban@ofsted.gov.uk).

Alternatively, if you are dissatisfied with our response or the handling of your request, you may request a formal internal review. In order to do this, please write to the following address, setting out which areas of the response you are unhappy with:

Email: [richard.mcgowan@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:richard.mcgowan@ofsted.gov.uk) or write to:

Information Management Team  
Ofsted  
Aviation House  
125 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you also have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether or not we have complied with our obligations under the FOI Act with respect to your request. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

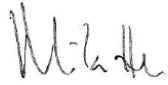
First Contact Team  
Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
SK9 5AF

I am copying this letter to Alan Brine HMI, Ofsted's National Lead for RE.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/subsidiary-guidance-supporting-inspection-of-maintained-schools-and-academies>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hoban". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Hoban HMI  
Divisional manager, Education Policy and Frameworks