

Freedom of Information Request

F.25.26.04: Questions Relating to Live Consultation

Date: 11.02.2026

Where possible, the Trust has provided high-level information about processes and policies. Where disclosure would reveal personal data or prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs during a live consultation, exemptions have been applied in accordance with the FOIA.

Question	Response
The total number of posts across QE School that are proposed for removal (no names or personal details required).	We hold information relevant to your request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The total number of posts across QE school that are proposed for removal have not yet been validated or finalised and form part of the Trust's ongoing consultation and decision-making process. This information is therefore exempt under section 36(2)(b)(i), 36(2)(b)(ii) and 36(2)(c) of the FOIA.
The categories or types of roles affected (e.g. SEND support, creative subjects, classroom support, teaching, administrative, management, central/Trust roles, Executive or Director-level posts, etc.).	We hold information relevant to your request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">As explained in the previous response, information relating to specific roles forms part of the Trust's internal deliberative processes and is exempt under section 36(2)(b)(i), 36(2)(b)(ii) and 36(2)(c) of the FOIA.Information that would identify individual staff or specific posts considered during internal consultation is exempt under section 40(2), as it constitutes personal data. Disclosure of this information would breach the first principle of data protection law- that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner (Article 5(1)(a) UK GDPR). There is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice that disclosure would cause to the rights and freedoms of the individuals concerned.
The savings target that QE School has been instructed to meet for the 2026/27 academic year.	We hold information relevant to your request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The savings target that QE School has been instructed to meet for the 2026/27 academic year has not yet been validated or finalised and forms part of the Trust's ongoing consultation and decision-making process. This information is therefore exempt under section 36(2)(b)(i), 36(2)(b)(ii) and 36(2)(c) of the FOIA.
Any impact assessment carried out regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none">pupil safety and supervisionSEND provisioncurriculum breadth (including creative and vocational subjects)class sizes and pastoral capacity	We hold information relevant to your request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Impact assessments are working documents that contain early-stage analysis, scenario modelling, and internal deliberation and have not yet been validated or finalised and form part of the Trust's ongoing consultation and decision-making process. This information is therefore exempt under section 36(2)(b)(i), 36(2)(b)(ii) and 36(2)(c) of the FOIA.
A list of GCSE and A-Level subjects that will not be running next year, as referenced by the Headteacher.	We hold information relevant to your request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Data for next year's courses is intended for future publication on the school's website and therefore

	<p>exempt from current publication under section 22 of the FOIA.</p>
<p>Confirmation of whether any senior Trust posts (including Executive and Director-level roles) are included within the scope of the cost-saving measures.</p>	<p>We hold information relevant to your request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As explained in the previous response, information relating to specific roles forms part of the Trust's internal deliberative processes and is exempt under section 36(2)(b)(i), 36(2)(b)(ii) and 36(2)(c) of the FOIA. ● Information that would identify individual staff or specific posts considered during internal consultation is exempt under section 40(2), as it constitutes personal data. Disclosure of this information would breach the first principle of data protection law- that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner (Article 5(1)(a) UK GDPR). There is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice that disclosure would cause to the rights and freedoms of the individuals concerned. ● The Trust can confirm that a range of structural and financial considerations are being reviewed. The consultation process is designed to ensure that all relevant factors are considered before final decisions are made.

Public Interest Test (for section 36 exemptions)

The Qualified Person for the Trust has given their reasonable opinion that the exemptions under section 36(2)(b) and 36(2)(c) are engaged.

Because Section 36 is a qualified exemption, we have also carried out a public interest test. We recognise the strong public interest in transparency, particularly where staffing, curriculum planning and the use of public funds are involved. However, at this stage, we consider that the public interest in allowing the consultation to run properly and ensuring that decision-makers can deliberate freely outweighs the public interest in disclosure. In particular, disclosure may:

- disrupt the consultation by placing incomplete or evolving information into the public domain.
- discourage staff and stakeholders from contributing openly, knowing that discussions may be disclosed before proposals are finalised.
- create confusion or unnecessary concern while options are still being considered.
- limit the space needed for leaders and advisers to explore, test and refine proposals before decisions are made.

Public Interest Test (for section 22 exemption)

Section 22 of the FOIA states that information is exempt from disclosure in response to an information request if the information is held by a public authority with a view to its publication and it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until publication.

The exemption under Section 22 FOIA is not absolute and must be qualified by a public interest test. This means that the Trust must assess whether the public interest favours disclosure or maintenance of the exemption. In this case we accept that there is a public interest in being transparent about the courses

being offered. However, given that this information will shortly be available online, we consider that early disclosure is not necessary. Therefore, having considered the public interest arguments, the Trust is currently withholding the information in accordance with Section 22 FOIA.