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Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Baile Átha Cliath 2  
Dublin 2

Michael Brennan  
Political Editor  
Sunday Business Post

27 July 2017

**FOI/Req/17/130: Emigrant Support Programme Audits 2016**

Dear Michael,

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act dated 29 June 2017. The request sought “a copy of the audit of grants awarded under Emigrant Support Programme carried out for the department by the ASM firm in 2016”. I have identified two records that fall within the scope of your request, both listed in the attached schedule. I have made the decision to refuse both records.

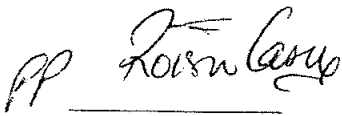
As required by the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I am obliged to make specific considerations as regards the public interest where access has been refused under specific sections of the Act. I feel that the release of this material would prejudice the effectiveness of audits conducted on the Department’s behalf. I also feel that release of this material would prejudice the availability of further similar information contained in future audits. I also note that the material contains information whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss or gain to the organisations in question. I have considered the right of the public to access information. I am satisfied that the balance favours refusal in this instance.

***Right of Appeal***

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so in writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2

or by email to [foi@dfat.ie](mailto:foi@dfat.ie). A fee applies for an appeal for access to non-personal information. The level of this fee has been set at €30. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at [foi@dfat.ie](mailto:foi@dfat.ie), or 01 408 2857. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification. 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 this Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helena Keleher', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Helena Keleher  
Deputy Director  
Irish Abroad Unit