



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Our Ref: **FOI/Req/2017/169**

Date: 11 October 2017

Dear Mr O'Dwyer,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

**All briefing notes and documents relating to the EU External Action Service in the context of expanding Ireland's diplomatic footprint.**

**All correspondence between Secretary General Niall Burgess and the minister of the day (i.e. Min Simon Coveney or Minister Charlie Flanagan) in relation to the EU External Action Service from September 1, 2016 to August 30, 2017.**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 21 September 2017.

As no records falling within the scope of your request have been identified, your request falls for refusal under Section 15 (1)(a) of the FOI Act, that is, the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken.

**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@dfa.ie](mailto:foi@dfa.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@dfa.ie](mailto:foi@dfa.ie), or 01-4082857.

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

Susan Bardon