



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2017/151

24 August 2017

Craig Farrell  
Irish Sun

Dear Mr. Farrell,

I refer to the request, dated 31 July 2017, which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

**The advice/explanation given to the Transport Minister by the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding the 19 Munitions of War requests that were rejected between Jan. 1st and June 31st of 2017.**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 9 August 2017.

In considering your request I considered the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's role in relation to the carriage of munitions on civil aircraft. The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has primary responsibility for the regulation of foreign civil aircraft in Ireland. Under the Air Navigation (Carriage of Munitions of War, Weapons and Dangerous Goods) Order of 1973, the carriage of munitions of war is prohibited on civil aircraft through Irish airspace or airports unless an exemption has been obtained in advance from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. Questions concerning the operation of the application process are a matter for that Department.

When the operator of a civil aircraft makes an application for such an exemption, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport seeks the advice of relevant Government Departments and agencies. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is consulted in relation to any foreign policy issues that may arise and may provide observations to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport which makes the final decision on all applications.

In considering such applications, this Department examines the nature of the munitions that it is proposed to carry. In the case of these applications the Department recommended against

granting exemptions having examined the nature of the munitions that it was proposed to carry.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's provision of advice to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in respect of such requests is guided by and accords with Ireland's longstanding policy of military neutrality.

In deciding the scope of your request, I have considered the instances of advice provided by this Department by email to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in respect of requests for observations on munitions of war exemption applications. I have identified 16 records that fall within the scope of your request and these records are listed in the schedule attached.

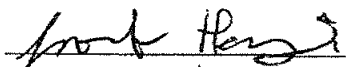
Where access to records has been part-granted, this has been done under Section 32(1) (b) and Section 37(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

#### **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



Gareth Hargadon

Desk Officer

International Security Policy Section