

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2

31<sup>st</sup> August 2017

Tadhg O'Brien

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2017/152

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, in which you requested the following:

**Who represented Ireland at the recent United Nations Ocean conference in New York, 6th to 9th June. What commitments did the Government make with regards to SDG14 (Sustainable Development Goal 14).**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

As set out in the attached schedule, four records has been released in response to your request, which detail the commitments made by Ireland at the UN Oceans conference in June of this year. Ireland was represented by Minister of State Pat Breen T.D., who at the time was Minister of State for Employment and Small Business.

The United Nations Ocean Conference, which took place from 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017, brought together Heads of State, Heads of Government and other high-level delegates, representatives from civil society organizations, the business community, intergovernmental and UN agencies, to spur action to improve the state of the world's oceans. The conference, the first UN conference of its kind on the issue, focused on achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14, highlighting the need to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

With the conclusion of the conference, the 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously agreed to a set of measures to reverse the decline of the ocean's health. The outcome document, entitled "Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action" together with almost 1,400 commitments made by States and other stakeholders, can mark a breakthrough in the global approach to the management and conservation of the ocean.

As detailed in the records provided, Ireland made a number of formal commitments at the Conference, which were notified to the United Nations and recorded in the outcomes of the Conference:

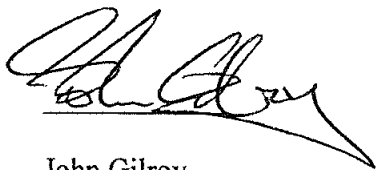
1. Developing the statistical capacities for monitoring the SDGs and Paris Agreement Commitments.
2. Microbead Ban in Cosmetics and other household products.

### **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 01-4082857.

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,



John Gilroy  
Deputy Director, UN Coordination Unit  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade