



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

29 November 2017.

Mr John Burke,
RTE News and Current Affairs,
TV Centre,
RTÉ,
Donnybrook,
Dublin 4.

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2017/223

Dear Mr Burke,

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:

Copies of all internal audit reports completed by or on behalf of the Department since 1 January 2017 to date. All and any briefing notes/report prepared for the Minister arising from the completion of any such internal audit report, if such exists.

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

I have identified 4 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 3 of these records and refuse 1. Where access has been refused, the records have been exempted from release by virtue of the following sections of the Act; Section 29 - Deliberations of FOI Bodies, Section 30 - Functions and negotiations of FOI bodies and Section 32 - Law enforcement and public safety as outlined in the enclosed schedule.

Under Section 29 of the Act (Deliberations of FOI Bodies), I have considered whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the record in question in terms of the right of the public to have access to information and the need for transparency in decision making processes. Given the nature of the record I am satisfied that its premature release would negatively impact ongoing internal discussions. On balance the public interest is best served by not releasing this record at this time.

Records have also been exempted under Section 30 of the Act (Functions and negotiations of a FOI Body). I have considered the nature and source of the information. Public interest arguments I have considered for release include the right of the public to access information and accountability of administrators. However, on balance I consider that premature release may negatively impact any investigations that may take place without any countervailing benefit to the public.



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Under Section 32 of the Act (Law enforcement and public safety), I have considered the possibility and likelihood that the release of the records could result in negative consequences and their likely severity. In particular, release at this time could impair any future court proceedings that may take place and on balance I have decided not to release this record.

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. 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, 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,

Tomás Chambers (Evaluation & Audit Unit)