



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

Property Management Unit  
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade  
76-78 Harcourt St  
Dublin 2

Mr Barry McGrath

21<sup>st</sup> June 2017

Re : FOI request FOI/Req/17/093 Barry McGrath (OPW plans for redevelopment of Loreto House)

Dear Mr McGrath,

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:

**“..information , records and data held by you relating to the proposed redevelopment of the site at the DFA, Iveagh House, 78-81 St Stephens Green, incorporating the proposal to develop the adjacent site at 77 St Stephen’s Green, which was the subject of a recent sales process.”**

**“ ... Provide me with copies of all the proposals, plans, drawings, records, correspondence and assessments pertaining to the proposal to develop the DFA site at Iveagh House, 78-81 St Stephens green, to include plans, drawings and assessments for the redevelopment of the site.”**

**“ I also require the proposals, records, plans, drawings,. Correspondence and assessments for any and all development / redevelopment of the DFA, Iveagh House , 78-81 St Stephens Green”**

**“Specifically I require the records which record which record the scope and nature of the proposed overall development (incorporating 78-81 St Stephens Green and 77 St Stephens Green) and any proposed revised development of the site\premises in light of the failure by the state to acquire the property at 77 St Stephens Green”**

I have identified 8 records which fall within the scope of your request and these are described in the attached schedule. The planning process is ongoing and as the Department can appeal the decision of the Planning Authority, I am as the deciding officer, refusing to grant you access to these records, under Section 30 (1)(c) of the Act.

“30. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to—

(c) disclose positions taken, or to be taken, or plans, procedures, criteria or instructions used or followed, or to be used or followed, for the purpose of any negotiations carried on or being, or to be, carried on by or on behalf of the Government or an FOI body. “

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 process. However, given the nature of the records I am satisfied that on balance the public interest would not be best served by releasing the information at this time.

### **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 St, 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

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Liz Finn

PMU  
76-78 Harcourt St  
Dublin 2