



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

Our Ref: FoI/Req/17/166

21 September 2017

Dear Ms Byrne,

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 written correspondence, including letters, memos, faxes, emails and SMS text messages and/or other social media messages, between the Taoiseach's office and that of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney regarding Brexit and Brexit related matters since they took up their appointments.

This covers material from 15 June 2017 to the date of your request.

The challenges Brexit poses calls for a whole-of-Government approach, with a view to securing the best possible outcome for Ireland. This work is coordinated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney T.D., and requires all government departments working and collaborating closely together. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of the Taoiseach, in particular, engage and coordinate on a daily basis. Engagement between the Taoiseach and Minister Coveney on Brexit related issues mainly takes place via the cabinet and the cabinet committee dealing with EU and Brexit affairs. .

I have identified one record that fall within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the schedule attached. After consideration of this record and the relevant sections of the Act, I have made a decision to release it.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colinn Dwyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.