

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2017/221
Clíodhna Russell
4th Floor,
Latin Hall,
Golden Lane,
Dublin 8

Dear Ms. Russell,
I refer to the request of 2 November which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

To receive 10 letters from members of the public on the subject of the undocumented Irish in the US so far this year and gross figures on the numbers of correspondence received.

I refer also to the acknowledgment of your request which was sent to you on 6 November 2017.

I have attached 9 records that have been identified which fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. It has been decided to grant partial access to 8 of the records.

Partial access has been granted under exemption 37.(1) to protect the identities of the authors of the correspondence.

Further, I can tell you that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's headquarters received 13 letters from the public directly on the issue of the undocumented Irish, and over 121 letters from the public regarding President Trump's executive order on immigration (Executive Order 13769).

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. 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, 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

Jack McCormack,
Assistant Director, U.S & Canada
Americas Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade