



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála

Oifig na bPasanna, Teach Knockmaun, 42-47 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach,
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 TN83

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Passport Office, Knockmaun House, 42-47 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2 D02 TN83

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2017/176

Mr. Cormac McQuinn
Irish Independent,
Independence House,
27-32 Talbot Street,
Dublin 1,
D01X2E1.

3rd October, 2017.

Dear Mr. McQuinn,

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 correspondence between your Department and the Departments of Public Expenditure and Reform and Social Protection on the following subjects:

1. The eGovernment Strategy
2. Public Services Cards
3. MyGovID

I am also seeking copies of all internal correspondence within your Department relating to the same subjects.

The correspondence could comprise of letters, emails and faxes. I am seeking copies of all documents enclosed with letters and attachments to emails.

The correspondence can be limited to items between May 6, 2016 and August 31, 2017, and, as agreed with you, to limit the scope of the request to policy matters.

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 21st September, 2017.

In the context of the reply to your request the Public Services Card is already a requirement for first-time, adult passport applicants who are resident in Ireland. This requirement also applies to a small number of adult passport applicants whose last passport was issued before 1 January 2005 and has since been reported lost, stolen or damaged. It is intended to extend the requirement to passport renewal applications by the end of 2018. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is currently working with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Social Protection on the modalities for the extension.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. I have identified 12 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 the records, part-grant 1 of the records, and refuse 8 of the records.

Where access has been refused the records are exempt from release under section S29 (1) (a) Deliberative Process. I have considered whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the records in question in terms of the right of the public to have access to information. Given the nature of the records I am satisfied, on balance the public interest is best served in refusing access to these records.

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.

If you wish to, 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 staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,



Donal O'Driscoll

Passport Service