



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/043

20 February 2019

Dear Requester,

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 records in all formats relating to meetings between the Minister or his senior officials with AirBnB during September to December 2018 inclusive.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4 February.

I have identified 8 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant access to 7 records and refuse access to 1.

The meeting arranged for Minister of State Cannon with the Public Policy Manager, Airbnb was a private meeting, and the only record held is correspondence arranging the date in his diary.

Section 36 – Commercially sensitive information

I have considered Section 36 of the Act in making my decision not to release record number 5. In this case, I am satisfied that this document contains commercially sensitive information, the release of which could reasonably be expected to have business consequences for the company.

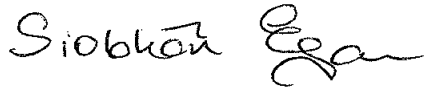
In weighing these consequences against the public interest, I have considered the right of the public to have access to information and the need for an open, transparent and accountable civil service. As there is a responsibility on the Department to ensure the company concerned is not unduly impeded in the effective pursuit of their business, I am satisfied that the balance favours refusal rather than release on this occasion.

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 "Siobhán Egan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Siobhán Egan
Freedom of Information Office