



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/059

5 March 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:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I am seeking information regarding the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill.

I am seeking the release of any correspondence to the Minister or the Department by Trócaire, any interest groups or members of the public regarding the Bill between 1 January 2018 and 25 January 2019.

I am also seeking the release of any minutes of meetings held by the Minister and correspondence sent from the Minister to other Ministers regarding the same between the same dates.”

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 6 February 2019. I also wish to thank you for your cooperation in refining the scope of your request.

I have identified 82 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 1, part- grant 79 and refuse 2 of the records.

The schedule sets out the grounds for refusal which relate to each record. Those include:

Section 33 (1) (d) of the Act, which relates to records which, if released, could reasonably be expected to adversely affect the international relations of the State. The granting of access to this information would adversely affect the State’s relations by, among other things, undermining confidence in the security and confidentiality of our diplomatic communications. It is important to maintain that mutuality of trust in order to protect and promote Ireland’s interests internationally.

Section 33(2) (b) (i) of the Act- Security, Defence and International Relations. This is a mandatory exemption and I am obliged to refuse access.

Where access has been part-granted, these records have been redacted under Section 37 of the Act, to withhold personal information (e.g. email addresses, telephone numbers, home addresses etc.). The records are otherwise complete. Details of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials dealing with the matter have not been redacted.

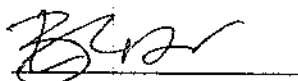
Please note that, while every reasonable effort has been made to identify all records that fall within the scope of your request, given that all correspondence to this Department is not always filed under the subject matter, we cannot guarantee that all records have been identified. However, we have no reason to believe that any records have been overlooked.

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



Lydia Bowers

Middle East and North Africa Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade