



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/067

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:

"I wish to make a request under the 2014 Freedom of Information Act regarding the following:

Any correspondence that the Department of Foreign Affairs has received from the Israeli Embassy in Dublin, during the period January 2018 to present, in relation to the Occupied Territories Bill proposed by Senator Frances Black."

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 5 February 2019.

I have identified 2 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 and refuse 1 record.

Where access has been refused, the record is exempt from release under 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.

This record was also refused under 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.

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, appearing to read 'LB', is written over a horizontal line.

Lydia Bowers

Middle East and North Africa Unit

Lydia.Bowers@dfa.ie