



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/19/103

26th March 2019

Dear Mr. Foxe,

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:

'A list of all submissions made to the Minister at your Department using the e-submissions system (or whatever relevant/similar system is in place at your Department) in the period 1 December 2018 to the date of receipt of this request.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 09 March 2019.

I have identified one record that fall within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to part-grant the record.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under sections 28, 29, 30, 33, 35, 36 and 37 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

In relation to Sections 29 and 30 of the Act, I have considered the source and nature of the records and the right of the public to have access to information. The public interest arguments I have considered in favour of release of the records include the public need to be better informed about the decision making processes of the Department and to scrutinise that decision making. The arguments considered against release of the records include avoiding damage to workings of the Department and the negative impact premature release would have without any countervailing benefit to the public. On balance I have decided that the public interest would be best served by not releasing the information at this time.

Information refused under Section 35 as this information was supplied in confidence and on the understanding that it would be treated by it as confidential.

This Department manages relations between Ireland and 178 countries, operating in a complex and diverse international environment, in a variety of locations and under varying local laws and customs. In order to effectively carry out its role, the Department must maintain trust and confidence between governments and other interlocutors. If the Department does not maintain the mutuality of trust, its ability to protect and promote Ireland's interests could

reasonably be expected to be adversely affected. I am satisfied that the balance favours refusal rather than release and I have refused access to certain information under Section 33.

Under Section 37 I have removed the names of private individuals.

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 'PR', is written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Rooney
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade