



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2019/186

Date: 01/07/2019

Dear Mr McDermott,

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 correspondence to the Office of the Minister from the National Union of Journalists, members of the public, other TDs, and any members of Sinn Féin or the Democratic Unionist Party regarding Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey between 31 August and the present date (5 June 2019), as well as any replies to that correspondence.***

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 13 June 2019.

I have identified four records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to release two of the records and part-grant the remaining two records.

The records that are part-granted have been edited only insofar as to remove names and identifying details of individuals, where these are not relevant to the request, under Section 37 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Section 37(1) is a mandatory exemption, but also one where a public interest test applies. The redacting of these records has no impact on the substance of the information contained in the records, so on balance, I have decided not to release these details.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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Georgia Knapp  
Irish Secretariat, Belfast  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade