



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Oifig na bPasanna, Teach Knockmaun, 42-47 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach,
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 TN83

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Passport Office, Knockmaun House, 42-47 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2 D02 TN83

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/256

Mr. Cianan Brennan,
The Irish Examiner.

17th September, 2019.

Dear Mr. Brennan,

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 memos /correspondence (both digital and other)/minutes of meetings between Department officials of level assistant principal and higher and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regarding the extension of the Public Services Card project to passport applications, and the Data Protection Commissioner's final report on the legality of the PSC, dated from 01 January 2019 to the current date

All memos correspondence (both digital and other)/minutes of meetings between Department officials of level assistant principal and higher and the Department of Social Protection regarding the extension of the Public Services Card project to passport applications, and the Data Protection Commissioner's final report on the legality of the PSC, dated from 01 January 2019 to the current date

All internal memos /internal correspondence (both digital and other)/minutes of internal meetings between Department officials of level assistant principal and higher the extension of the Public Services Card project to passport applications, and the Data Protection Commissioner's final report on the legality of the PSC, dated from 01 January 2019 to the current date

As you made your request on 20 August the "current date" in your request is deemed to be 20 August 2019.

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 29th August.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. I have identified 6 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant all 6 records.

Please note an incorrect figure of 70,000 was given at the top of record 3. The correct figure is 17,000.

Redactions were applied under Section 37 (1) to parts of record 3. This section of the FOI Act 2014 states:

37. (1) Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, on the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).

This Section provides for the protection of records containing personal information held by public bodies, against release to individuals other than the person to whom the information relates. All contents of a personal nature are therefore redacted in this record.

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.

If you wish to, 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 staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,


Donal O'Driscoll
Passport Service