



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**

Oifig na bPasanna, Teach Knockmaun, 42-47 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach,  
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 TN83

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Passport Office. Knockmaun House, 42-47 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2 D02 TN83

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/288

Mr. Aiden Corkery.

5th November, 2019.

Dear Mr. Corkery,

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 exchanged between officials within the Department of Foreign Affairs and (1) other officials within the Department of Foreign Affairs, (2) officials within other government bodies and (3) officials in other state bodies regarding the requirement or non-requirement for a public services card to obtain or renew a passport at assistant principal level and above.***

***The correspondence should include all correspondence or communication, sent by email, text message, whatsapp, letter or any other format, between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019.***

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. I wish to inform you that I have undertaken a search for records and have identified 13 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 7 records and part grant 6 records.

Please note an incorrect figure of 70,000 was given at the top of record 6 and at the bottom of the first page of the attachment with record 8. The correct figure is 17,000.

Redactions were applied under **Section 37 (1)** to parts of records 1, 3, 6 and 10. 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).

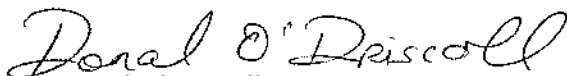
This Section provides for the protection of records containing personal information held by public bodies, against release to individuals other than the person to whom the information relates. All contents of a personal nature are therefore redacted in this record.

### **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](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.

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