



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

06 December 2019

Stephen McDermott  
Journal.ie

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/316

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:

*“relating to Ireland's position on the Armenian massacres during World War I, specifically any internal correspondence from January to May 2015 regarding the government's position on the massacres and any potential decision to recognise the massacres as a 'genocide'.”*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 12 November 2019.

I have identified **55** records that fall within the scope of your request.

I have made the decision to grant 31 records in full, grant a part of 10 records, and deny access to 14 records. The attached schedule sets out the Sections of the Act which have been applied in this regard.

With regard to records 2, 6, 10, 11, 12, 19, 22, 36, 39, 40, 42, 45, 50, and 52 I am satisfied that their disclosure could result in negative consequences for Ireland's international relations with other States. Good relations depend upon the creation and maintenance of trust and

confidence between States. Accordingly I have applied Sections 33(1)(d) of the FOI Act, Security, Defence and International Relations.

With regard to records 4, 7, 13, 14, 23, 27, 32, 33, 35, and 54 I am satisfied that some material contains personal information of members of the public. Accordingly, I have applied Section 37(1) of the FOI Act, Personal Information, and so have redacted this material and grant the remaining part of the records.

### 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 four 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 that reads "Neil Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

Neil Barrett

Desk Officer

European Neighbourhood Unit

EU Division