



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

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2020/001

Date: 28 January 2020

Dear Mr Tighe,

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 sent and received between the FAI and Minister Simon Coveney from June 2017 to date**

I have identified 2 records that fall within the scope of your request and these are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to part-grant access to these records. These records are part-granted as follows:

**Records refused under Section 37 of the Act – Personal information**

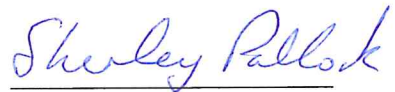
While Section 37 (1) Personal Information is a mandatory exemption, I am still obliged to consider whether the public interest would be best served by releasing the records in full. I have taken into account the benefit to the public to be given access to correspondence in a manner which demonstrates transparency and accountability of the Department. In the main, the refusal of access or part-grant records is due to those records relating to personal identifiable information and much of it does not affect the substance of the record. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information would provide any additional benefit in this regard. I have weighed this against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private and have found that there is a clear prerogative for this information to remain private.

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



Shirley Pollock  
Shirley Pollock  
Office of the Tánaiste and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade