



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/179

Date: 20/08/21

Dear Deputy Nash,

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 material held by the Department in electronic or hard copy form (dated between 1st March 2020 and the 31st July 2021 inclusive) relating to the position of Special Envoy on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the associated appointment of Ms. Katherine Zappone on the 27th July to the role. This should include, but should not be limited to;

- **A copy of the job description (all drafts and the final, agreed description of the role including details relating to stipend, expenses and any other arrangements or terms and conditions attached to the position)**
- **All correspondence (including records and notes of phone calls) between Ms. Katherine Zappone and the Minister for Foreign Affairs or his private office, special advisers and departmental officials relating to the position of Special Envoy on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the consideration of Ms. Zappone for appointment to the position.**
- **Copies of all advice requested and/or received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and or his office or special advisers from departmental officials relating to the role and function of a Special Envoy on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, including in relation to Ms. Zappone's appointment to the role.**

I have made a decision to refuse your request on administrative grounds under Section 15 (1) (f) of the FOI Act which states that;

“A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where — the FOI body intends to publish the record and such publication is intended to be effected not later than 6 weeks after the receipt of the request by the head,”

The Department of Foreign Affairs intends to publish all records it holds in relation to the appointment of Katherine Zappone as a Special Envoy on Freedom of Expression, (with the exception of records that are exempt from release under various provisions of the FOI Act), by 8 September 2021. It will also publish a schedule, listing all the records, and, where applicable, giving the reason for redaction or refusal of certain 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. A fee applies for an appeal for access to non-personal information; the level of this fee has been set at €30, (€10 for medical cardholders). A copy of the medical card should be provided to avail of the reduced fee. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01-4082618.

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

David Ormond
FOI Section