



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/031

18 February 2021

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:

'Under the FOI Act 2014, I am requesting the release of minutes or notes of any meetings between Dan Mulhall and representatives of Facebook between 1 September and 31 December last regarding Facebook's attempts to seek the Irish Embassy's support to establish interim and long-term solutions for EU-US data transfers. I am also requesting notes of any phone calls between Facebook Ireland and Mr Mulhall regarding the same. My request covers correspondence and meetings referred to in entries on the Lobbying Register here.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 2 February inst.

I have identified 7 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 of the records.

The records being released relate to a request from Facebook for an introductory call with Ambassador Mulhall, which took place via Zoom on 10 September 2020. No minutes or notes were taken from that call, as it was a brief introductory call during which Ambassador Mulhall was informed that a letter requesting the support of the Embassy would issue from Ms Erin Egan, Vice President and Chief Privacy Officer, Facebook. While the Embassy received this letter in draft form as per the attached records, a formal, signed version of the letter was never received by the Embassy (neither in soft or hard copy). There has been no subsequent engagement between the Embassy and Facebook on this matter.

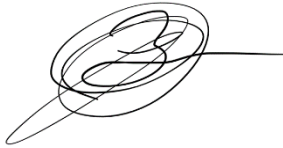
Right of Appeal

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 card holders). 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,

Peadar Ó Broin

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Embassy of Ireland, Washington, D.C.