



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2021/113

24th June 2021

Dear Mr Foxe,

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:

copies of the invoices associated with the following transactions:

| | | | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|
| A7 | Consultancy S4 CONSULTANCY COSTS - ZERO-G | 03/04/2020 1537 | COMMUN | 280421 | 12669 |
| A7 | Consultancy S4 CONSULTANCY COSTS - ZERO-G | 28/02/2020 1537 | COMMUN | 277692 | 26568 |

- *a record of any other money that was paid to the Zero G agency during the course of its work for DFA.*
- *a copy of the design brief or any such guidance document provided to Zero G as part of its work on the "Global Reputation and Communications Strategy for Ireland".*
- *a copy of any reports submitted by Zero G relating to the above project.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 26th May 2021.

I have identified 4 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to part-grant 2 of the records and grant 2. Please note as the project was at an early stage, no formal reports were received. Please further note, that owing to the pandemic, the contract was paused on March 23rd 2020. It remains on pause.

The records that have been part-granted have had information redacted under section 36 (1) (b) and Section 37 (1). Section 36 (1) (b) states – “Subject to subsection (2), a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned contains—

(b) financial, commercial, scientific or technical or other information whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss or gain to the person to whom the information relates, or could prejudice the competitive position of that person in the conduct of his or her profession or business or otherwise in his or her occupation, or”

The information redacted is bank accounts and VAT numbers the release of which could reasonably be expected to cause harm or financial loss.

Section 37 (1) states – “Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in 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).”

The information redacted is personal information as described by the FOI Act 2014.

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

Siobhan Kelly