



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

Our Ref: FoI/Req/18/307

11 January 2019

Dear Mr Hughes,

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 records relating to the e-submission [18/09/2018] made to the Minister relating to the 45th Anniversary of Bilateral Relations between Ireland and Russia...to cover the period from 1/6/2017-6/12/2018.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 14 December 2018.

I have identified 9 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 4 records, grant 1 record, and to refuse 4 records.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 Section 33(1)(d) *Security, Defence and International Relations*, I have part-granted 4 records. These records are also part granted under Section 29(1)(a) *Deliberations of FOI Bodies*. With regards to Section 33(1)(d) *Security, Defence and International Relations* and Section 33(2)(b)(ii) *communication between Governments*, I have refused 3 records. Under Section 33(1)(a)(d) *Security, Defence and International Relations* I have refused 1 record.

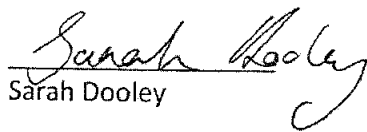
The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for managing relations between Ireland and 178 countries. Based on the Department's direct knowledge and expertise in international relations, its strongly held position is that the mere granting of access to records will adversely affect the State's relations by introducing major doubts with regard to the security and confidentiality of our diplomatic communications. It is important to maintain that mutuality of trust to protect and promote Ireland's interests internationally. I have considered the possibility and likelihood that the release of the records could result in negative consequences and their likely severity. On balance I am satisfied that the balance favours refusal rather than release.

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.

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


Sarah Dooley