

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2018/071

Jennifer Bray

Dear Ms. Bray,

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 correspondence received by the Department from interested parties around the potential impact of Brexit on the island of Ireland: this should include correspondence from businesses, lobby groups, organisations and other interested parties or individuals (but not the general public). The timeframe for this should be from December 1st of 2017 to date.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4 April 2018.

I have identified 33 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant access to 13 records, part-grant access to one of the records and refuse access to the remaining 19 records.

The records that are granted have been edited in some cases only insofar as to remove contact details of individuals or identifying information, where these are not relevant to the request.

17 of the records have been refused on administrative grounds, because the information which they contain is publically available (Section 15(1)(d) of the Freedom of Information Act).

Where access has been refused to the remaining 2 records, and where access has been part granted to one of the records, the records are exempt from release under the following section of the Act:

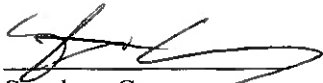
- Section 35(1)(a), which refers to records “containing information given to an FOI body, in confidence and on the understanding that it would be treated by it as confidential”. I have considered whether releasing the records falling under this exemption would prejudice such giving of information in future, and in my opinion releasing the records would have this effect. I am therefore obliged to refuse the request.

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@dfat.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@dfat.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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Garry', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Garry
Ireland, UK and Americas Division,
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade