



Our Ref: Fol/Req/18/285

30th November 2018

Dear Mr Murray,

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 correspondence sent to the Irish embassy in Britain since the beginning of this year regarding concerns from Irish citizens living in the UK about Brexit, how it will affect them, their families, their right to work - and the replies sent back to these persons

I have identified approximately 82 records that fall within the scope of your request and as agreed, a sample of these records will be released for your consideration.

To this end 37 records, which fall within the scope of your request, will be released. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant access to all 37 records, with only the personal identifying details of individuals removed under section 37 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 37 – Personal information

While Section 37(1) Personal Information is a mandatory exemption I am still obliged to consider whether the public interest would be best served by releasing the records in full. I have taken into account the benefit to the public to be given access to correspondence in a manner which demonstrates transparency and accountability of the Department. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information, which includes names, addresses, email addresses etc., would provide any additional benefit in this regard. I have weighed this against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private. The personal information which I have redacted does not have any bearing on the substance or detail of the records, and does not diminish or alter the views expressed, and as such, I am satisfied that on balance the decision to partially redact the records and remove identifiable information is correct.

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. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.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,

Rosie Keane
Embassy of Ireland