

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

3rd December 2018.

Ms. Sarah Burns
Reporter
The Irish Times

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2018/288

Dear Ms. Burns,

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 internal audits completed by the Department between August 1, 2018 and October 31.


I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on November 16th, 2018.

I have listed relevant records in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant one of these records and refuse one. Where access to the listed information has been refused, the records have been exempted from release by virtue of the following sections of the Act; Section 29 - Deliberations of FOI Bodies, Section 30 - Functions and negotiations of FOI bodies and Section 32 - Law enforcement and public safety as outlined in the enclosed schedule.

Under Section 29 (1) (a) (b) of the Act (Deliberations of FOI Bodies), I have considered whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the record in question in terms of the right of the public to have access to information and the need for transparency in decision making processes. Given the nature of the record I am satisfied that its premature release would negatively impact ongoing internal discussions. On balance the public interest is best served by not releasing this record at this time.

Records have also been exempted under Section 30 (1) (a) (c) of the Act (Functions and negotiations of a FOI Body). I have considered the nature and source of the information. Public interest arguments I have considered for release include the right of the public to access information and accountability of administrators. However, on balance I consider that premature release may negatively impact any investigations that may take place without any countervailing benefit to the public.

Under Section 32 (1) (a) (i) (iv) of the Act (Law enforcement and public safety), I have considered the possibility and likelihood that the release of the records could result in negative consequences and their likely severity. In particular, release at this time could impair any future court proceedings that may take place and on balance I have decided not to release this record.



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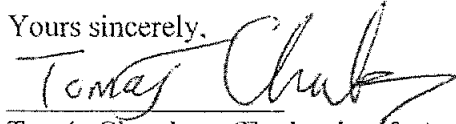
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Right of Appeal

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,



Tomás Chambers (Evaluation & Audit Unit)