



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Mr Michael Brennan
Sunday Business Post
Press Gallery
Leinster House
Dublin 2

06 March 2014

Our Ref: FOI/REQ/14/015

Dear Mr Brennan

I refer to your recent application under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 for access to records held by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as follows:

- 1. A copy of the review of Irish Aid Financial Policies and Procedures carried out by ASTEC Global Consultancy Ltd.*
- 2. A copy of the Gender Equality Audit carried out by Wright Consultancy Limited.*
- 3. All documentation prepared by Department officials in 2013 and 2014 to date in relation to costs, advantages/disadvantages and political implications of re-opening the Irish Embassy to the Vatican.*
- 4. A copy of Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore's ministerial diary for 2013.*
- 5. A copy of the Department's review of Ireland's Honorary Consul Service.*

I have decided to part-grant your request.

The review of the Irish Aid Financial Policies and Procedures, the Gender Equality Audit and the review of the Honorary Consul Services are all ongoing; therefore access to documents is refused under Section 21 (a) of the FOI Act – *deliberative process of a public body*. The review of the Irish Aid

Financial Policies and Procedures will be finalised in coming weeks and made available on the Department's website www.dfa.ie .

As you will be aware, the decision to re-open a residential Irish Embassy to the Holy See was taken by Government. Documentation prepared for this decision falls to be refused under Section 19(1)(a) and (c) of the FOI Act - *meetings of the Government*.

I enclose a copy of the Tánaiste ministerial diary for 2013. Where information has been redacted, this has been done under Sections 23 - *law enforcement and public safety*, 24 - *international relations* and 28 - *personal information*.

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. 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 cursive script, appearing to read 'Julie O'Brien', written in black ink.

Julie O'Brien

FOI Officer