



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**  
**Baile Átha Cliath 2**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**  
**Dublin 2**

Mr Carl O'Brien

The Irish Times

Dublin 2

Our Ref: FOI/REQ/14/046

13 June 2014

Dear Mr O'Brien

I refer to your recent request under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 for access to briefing material prepared for David Cooney, Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for his appearance before the Public Accounts Committee on 6 March 2014.

I am the deciding officer in this case. I have decided to part-grant your request and I enclose a copy of the briefing for Vote 28 (Foreign Affairs - Volumes I and II) and Vote 27 (International Cooperation). Where information has been redacted, this has been done in accordance with the following sections of the FOI Act:

- Section 23(1)(a)(i) – investigation of offences;
- Section 24(1) – international relations and matters relating to Northern Ireland;
- Section 27(1)(b) – commercially sensitive information;
- Section 46(c)(ii) – a record relating to an audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General;
- Section 46(d) – a record relating to the President.

The application of the various exemptions is marked on the index to Vote 28 briefing. No exemptions have been applied to the briefing on Vote 27.

**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. A fee applies for an appeal, with the exception of an appeal against the imposition of a fee; the level of this fee has been set at €75. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs.

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 that reads "Julie O'Brien". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Julie O'Brien

FOI Officer