



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Oifig na bPasanna, Sráid Theach Laighean, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Passport Office, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

27 August 2014

Our Ref: Foi/Req/2014/062

Mr Anthony Sheridan

Dear Mr Sheridan

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, in which you requested:

- 1. All documents, e-mails and other correspondence relating to the discontinuance of the Special Passport Facility for Members of the Oireachtas.*
- 2. All documents, e-mails and other correspondence relating to the system that has replaced the Special Passport Facility for Members of the Oireachtas.*
- 3. If no formal system replaced the Special Passport Facility, please provide an outline/description of procedures currently in use when dealing with passports delivered by politicians and passport queries/complaints received from politicians.*
- 4. Name and position of official/politician who made the decision to discontinue the facility.*
- 5. Confirmation or otherwise that the courier service between Leinster House and the passport office has been discontinued.*
- 6. Confirmation or otherwise that the three passport officials designated to deal with passports received from politicians have been reassigned to other duties.*

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 1 August 2014.

Re 1) No emails or other correspondence exist relating to the discontinuance of the Special Passport Facility for members of the Oireachtas.

Re 2) There is no Special Passport Facility in place for members of the Oireachtas.

Re 3) Members of the Oireachtas can make representations on behalf of applicants through the normal representational channels.

Re 4) The service was discontinued in January 2010 in the context of industrial action taken in the Passport Office and the service has not been restored.

Re 5) There is no courier service between Leinster House and the Passport Office.

Re 6) There are currently no staff assigned to this role.

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 and Trade.

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



Mary Feeney
Passport Office
Molesworth Street
Dublin 2