



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2

DUBLIN 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/16-076

20 July 2016

Dear Mr Cain,

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:

I request copies of all reports, documents, e-mails or other communications related to an incident in which Ambassador Kevin Vickers made physical contact with a protestor in Dublin in May, 2016.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 24 June 2016.

I have identified 24 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached, in which I have provided a short description of each record. I have made a decision to fully grant 13 of the records, to part grant 6 records and to refuse to release 5 records.

Under section 37.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I have an obligation to refuse to grant access to a record in cases where such a disclosure would involve the release of personal information. Consequently for the 6 records to which I have part-granted access, listed as records 12-14, 16, 17, and 19 in the attached schedule, I have made a decision to redact certain pieces of identifying information. I have also redacted certain information under Section 33.1 (d) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, as they could reasonably be expected to affect adversely the international relations of the State.

Following careful consideration, I have made a decision to refuse the release of five of these records (8, 11, 15, 23, and 24) under Section 33.1 (d) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 as release of these records could reasonably be expected to affect adversely the international relations of the State.

Under Section 35.1(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I have an obligation to refuse to grant an FOI request when the records concerned contain information given in confidence, on the understanding that it would be treated as confidential and in cases where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the sharing of similar information in the future. Consequently, I have made a further decision to refuse to grant access to two of these records (23 and 24) on the basis that the release of these records would violate this requirement to maintain confidentiality.

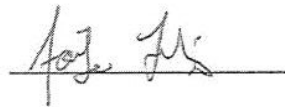
The relevant sections of the Freedom of Information Act are set out in Annex I for your information.

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 or by email to foi@dfat.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@dfat.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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aoife Fleming', is written over a horizontal line.

Aoife Fleming
Americas Unit