



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**

Oifig na bPasanna, Teach Knockmaun, 42-47 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach,  
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 TN83

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Passport Office, Knockmaun House, 42-47 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2 D02 TN83

13 July 2016

Our Ref: FOI/REQ/2016/077

Ken Foxe

Dear Mr Foxe,

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:

Copies of any reports, memoranda, submissions etc. relating to difficulties in dealing with volume of applications at Passport Office in 2016.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

I have identified five records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to part-grant four of the records and refuse one.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under the following Sections of the FOI Act:

*Section 29. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned contains matter relating to the deliberative processes of an FOI body (including opinions, advice, recommendations, and the results of consultations, considered by the body, the head of the body, or a member of the body or of the staff of the body for the purpose of those processes), and the granting of the request would, in the opinion of the head, be contrary to the public interest;*

*Section 30. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to (b) have a significant, adverse effect on the performance by an FOI body of any of its functions relating to management (including industrial relations and management of its staff);*

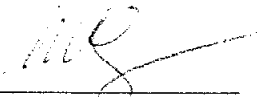
*Section 32. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to— (a) prejudice or impair (iii) lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures for ensuring the safety of the public and the safety or security of persons and property.*

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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



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Catherine Bannon  
Passport Service