



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.

10th March, 2015

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2015/020

Mr. Michael Brennan

Email:

Dear Mr. Brennan,

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, in which you requested:

A copy of the report by the External group into internal controls in the Passport Office.

A copy of the subsequent review carried out by the Audit Unit into measures taken by the Passport Office.

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 20th February 2015.

After reviewing these records, I have made a final decision to refuse your request under sections S.30 (1) (a), S.32 (1) (a) (i), S. 33 (1) (a), and section S. 33 (3) (c) (iii) of the Act. I have enclosed a schedule of records in addition to the relevant sections under the Act which have been applied.

When weighing the public interest factors in releasing the records I took into consideration both the nature and the source of these records in addition to the inherent confidentiality which it attaches. It is essential for the Passport Service in protecting the integrity of the Irish passport and the safe travel of its citizens abroad to receive such communication from police and other authorities. This enables the office to detect and investigate potential fraud and misuse of the Irish passport. To release records of this nature may limit future information given to this office and therefore have a detrimental impact on the offices ability to protect against such offences.

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

Mary Feeney
Passport Office
Molesworth Street
Dublin 2