



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/15/030

Jim Cusack
Email:

31 March 2015

Dear Mr. Cusack,

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:

"Access to internal departmental records relating to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly Committee 'A' report on cross border police co-operation and illicit trade".

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 10 March 2015.

I have identified 18 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 3 of the records.

Where access to a record has been refused, the records are exempt from release under the following sections of the FOI Act:

Section 15(1): A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where- (d) the information is already in the public domain.

Section 31(1): A head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned- (c) consists of (ii) opinions, advice, recommendations, or the results of consultations, considered by- (II) a committee appointed by either such House or jointly by both such Houses and consisting of members of either or both of such Houses or a member of such a committee or a member of the staff of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service for the purposes of the proceedings at a meeting of such a committee.

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- (i) the prevention, detection or investigation of offences, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders or the effectiveness of lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures employed for the purposes of the matters aforesaid.

Section 33(1): A head may refuse to grant an FOI request in relation to a record (and in particular but without prejudice to the generality otherwise of this subsection, to a record to which *subsection (2)* applies) if, in the opinion of the head, access to it could reasonably be expected to affect adversely- (c) matters relating to Northern Ireland.

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@dfa.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@dfa.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



James Kilcourse
Responding Officer