



Our Ref: FOI/Req/2021/073

Date: 9 April 2021

Dear Mr. Beesley,

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:

*List and description of any correspondence or any contact in the last 24 months between the Department or the Minister, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, or his Office;*

*Correspondence between the Department or the Minister, with the UAE authorities in the last 24 months concerning Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum*

I have identified one record which falls within the scope of your request. This record is listed in the attached schedule. I have made a decision to deny access to your request under section 33(2)(b)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 (the Act).

Section 33(2)(b)(i) concerns diplomatic communication. The Department of Foreign Affairs operates in a complex and diverse international environment. A mutuality of confidence exists in the communication between this Department and our interlocutors. This is particularly the case in respect of diplomatic communications. I have considered the possibility and likelihood that the release of these records could result in negative consequences, and prejudice the ability of this Department to effectively discharge its functions and engage with outside interlocutors and stakeholders. To do otherwise would risk compromising the State's capacity to engage with international partners through diplomatic and other channels.

### **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, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 or by email to [foi@dfa.ie](mailto: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](mailto: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,

Ciarán Kelleher Byrne

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