

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and TradeDublin 2

1st September 2017

Mr. Ken Foxe Right to Know

Re FOI/REQ/2017/153

Dear Mr Foxe,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 on the 9th August 2017 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

All records regarding the recent attendance of officials of the Department before the Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs concerning the election observation panel including background papers prepared for the officials attending the meeting, records of the meeting and arising from the meeting in particular measures to follow up on matters agreed or discussed at the meeting.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on the 9th August 2017.

By way of background, the election roster had been raised at a previous meeting of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and resulting from that, officials met with a number of TDs and Senators for an informal briefing session on the Election Observation Roster on the 12th July 2017.

As responding officer, I have identified 2 records which fall within the scope of your request. These records are listed in the attached schedule and describe the documents and refers to the sections of the FOI Act where applicable. I have made a decision to grant access to both of these records.

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@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

John Crowe

Assistant Principal