



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

25 July 2017

Mr Ken Foxe

Re FOI/REQ/2017/117

Dear Mr Foxe

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 on the 22nd June 2017 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

“Copy of the following submission (taken from the recent FOI release to me): Proposed release of funding to GOAL (08/02).”

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on the 4th July and my subsequent email to you of the 14th July 2017.

As responding officer, I have identified 1 record which falls within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the attached schedule and describes the document and refers to the sections of the FOI Act where applicable. I have made a decision to, part-grant access to this record.

The material in this record has been redacted in accordance with Section 29. (1) (a) Deliberative Process and Section 36. (1) (b) Commercially Sensitive Information of the FOI Act 2014.

Public Interest Test

I have considered Section 29 of the 2014 Act in making my decision not to release certain information and whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the full record in question in terms of the right of the public to have access to information. Given the nature of the record, I am satisfied that premature release of certain information would negatively impact on the decision-making processes of this Department. On balance the public interest would not be best served by fully releasing this record.

I have considered Section 36 of the 2014 Act in relation to this record. Access to certain confidential information is essential in order to allow the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade to execute its functions. In certain instances, such information may also be of a commercially sensitive nature. In this case, I am satisfied that this document contains commercially sensitive information, the release of which could reasonably be expected to have adverse business consequences for Goal.

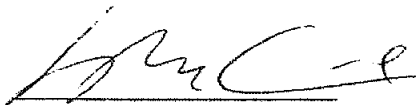
In weighing these adverse consequences against the public interest, I have again considered the right of the public to have access to information; the need for an open, transparent and accountable civil service and the need for decision-making processes to be adequately scrutinised. I am satisfied that the balance favours part granting on this occasion.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Crowe', written over a horizontal line.

John Crowe
Assistant Principal