



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/17/012

Gráinne Weld
Fianna Fáil Research,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

Dear Ms Weld,

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:

All briefing material including memos, circulars, emails, background papers, preparatory advice, minutes of meetings, reports, documents and publications provided to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade that have outlined or discussed the implications legal, financial, constitutional or otherwise of a United Ireland, from 23rd January 2013 to date.

I also wish to request any preparatory material and/or guidelines prepared by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade made in the event of a referendum on a United Ireland from 23rd January 2013 to date.

I also wish to request any correspondence between the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in relation to the prospect of a United Ireland the potential impact of same, from 23rd January 2013 to date.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 30 January 2017.

This Department can neither confirm nor deny that it holds information relevant to parts of your request, as the duty to offer access to any record held by the Department under the legislation does not apply by virtue of – *Security, defence and international relations* Section 33(1)(c) and 33(4). I have determined that the disclosure of the existence or non-existence of a record would prejudice matters relating to Northern Ireland.

In addition, Section 42 of the Act sets out the exclusion of certain records from the scope of Freedom of Information legislation which includes any record given by this Department to the Minister for use by him in any proceedings in either Houses of the Oireachtas, see Section 42(j).

In that light I have identified one record that falls within the scope of your request and Freedom of Information legislation. After consideration of the record and the relevant sections of the Act, I have made the decision to part-grant this record and it is recorded in the below schedule. Under Section 33 of the Act, I have considered the possibility and likelihood that the release of these records could adversely affect matters relating to Northern

Ireland. I have carefully considered the nature of this record and am satisfied that the public interest is best served in part-granting access to this record.

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@dfat.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



Eilís O'Keeffe,
Ireland, UK and Americas Division,
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

SCHEDULE FOI/Req/17/012			
Record Description		Granted/Part-Granted/Refused	Section exempted under:
1.	Note for Minister's Information on launch of Report on the All-Island Economy by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise, and Innovation	Part-granted	Section 33(1)(c)