



Our Ref: FOI/Req/19/344

Date: 24 December 2019

Dear Mr. Woods,

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:

- Correspondence sent and received during 2017 between the Department and the New York Times regarding the potential arrest of reporter Declan Walsh
- Correspondence sent and received during 2017 between the Embassy of Ireland in Cairo Egypt and the New York Times regarding the potential arrest of reporter Declan Walsh
- Correspondence sent and received during 2017 between the Department and Embassy of Ireland in Cairo Egypt regarding the potential arrest of reporter Declan Walsh

Having conducted a search of the Department's records, I have located 2 documents that falls within the scope of your request. I have made a decision to grant access to one document, and part-grant access to the other document. Information has been redacted from one document under Article 32(1)(a)(iii) and Article 32(1)(b), on the basis that access to said information may; prejudice or impair lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures for ensuring the safety of the public and the safety or security of persons and property; and may endanger the life or safety of a person.

Information has also been redacted under Section 37(1) in respect of the same document. This is a mandatory exemption relating to personal information. I have considered the public interest in the context of the public right to access information. However, I am satisfied that, on balance, the broader community interest, as distinct from your particular interest, is best served by protecting the privacy (including contact details) of the individuals concerned.

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,

Conor Finn

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