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,

[Signature]

Cédrick Finn
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