



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/028

Date: 18 February 2019

Dear Mr. Keane,

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:

Minutes of meetings, and all related email correspondence, between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Microsoft regarding a round table policy discussion on the area of cybersecurity attended by Brad Smith, Microsoft's president and chief legal officer and Cathriona Hallahan, Managing Director, Microsoft Ireland - as outlined on the lobbying register: <https://www.lobbying.ie/return/37135/microsoft-ireland-operations-ltd>

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 31 January 2019.

The meeting in question was as part of a series of visits to European cities undertaken by the Microsoft CEO, Brad Smith, to promote a 'Paris Call to Action for Trust and Security in Cyberspace'. The Call to Action was launched by France (President Macron) at the Internet Governance Forum on 12 November 2018. It is a high-level declaration in favour of the development of common principles for securing cyberspace which has to date received the backing of more than 500 supporters, including 64 States, 328 entities of the private sector and 129 international and civil society organisations.

I have identified 17 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to part-grant all 17 of the records. I have made a decision to part-grant these records on the basis of an exemption provided for under Section 37 (1) of the 2014 Act where "access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information" and on the basis of an exemption provided for under section 35 (1) (a) of the 2014 Act where "a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if...the record concerned contains information given to an FOI body, in confidence and on the understanding that it would be treated by it as confidential".

While Section 37(1) and Section 35 (1) are mandatory exemptions, I am still obliged to consider whether the public interest would be best served by releasing the records in full. I

have taken into account the benefit to the public to be given access to correspondence in a manner which demonstrates transparency and accountability of the Department. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information, which includes names, addresses, email addresses etc., or any other information received in confidence would provide any additional benefit in this regard. I have weighed this against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private. The personal information and information received in confidence which I have redacted does not have any bearing on the substance or detail of the records, and does not diminish or alter the views expressed, and as such, I am satisfied that on balance the decision to partially redact the records and remove identifiable information is correct.

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



John Boylan
Deputy Director
International Security Policy Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade