



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19052

25 February 2019

Dear Mr Flanagan,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, amended on 8 February 2019 as follows:

“All Correspondences between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Defence about the United Nations Security Council seat bid from January 2018 to now, limited to correspondence to or from councilor/principal officer level or above.”

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4 February 2019.

I have identified 8 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant access to two records and refuse access to six records.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under the following sections of the FOI Act:

Deliberations of Public Bodies: S29(1) (a),

Functions and Negotiations of Public Bodies: S30(1)(b),

Law enforcement and public safety: S32(1)(a)(ix)

Security, Defence and International Relations: S33(1) (a) & (d); S33(2) (a) & (b)


In relation to Sections 29(1)(a) and S30(1)(b) of the Act, I have considered whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the records in question in terms of the right of the public to have access to information and the need for accountability and transparency in the decision making processes of public bodies. Given the source and nature of these records, I am satisfied that their premature release would negatively impact on the decision making and information sharing process of this Department and the Department of Defence, as well as management of operational functions by the Department of Defence. As such, on balance I have decided that the public interest would not be better served in releasing these records.

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 cursive script, appearing to read "Julie O'Brien", is written over a horizontal line.

Julie O'Brien
Deputy Director, UN Policy unit