



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/060

19 February 2019

Dear Mr Thomas,

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 correspondence – including briefings, reports and memos – as well as records of meetings held between Minister Simon Coveney and Aisling Hassell of Air BnB between 1 September 2018 and 31 December 2018

I have identified 7 documents that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 6 documents and refuse access to one on the basis of Section 36 of the Act.

In relation to the record exempted under Section 36 of the Act – *Commercially sensitive information*, I have taken the public interest into account, inter alia, the need to achieve openness, transparency and accountability in decision-making. I have considered whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the record in question in terms of the right of the public to have access to information and the need for an open and accountable civil service. To ensure the company concerned would not be unduly impeded in the effective pursuit of their business, I have decided the wider public interest is best served by refusing access to the commercially sensitive information contained within the scheduled records.

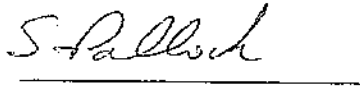
Right of Appeal

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 30euro. 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 "S. Pollock", is written above a solid horizontal line.

Shirley Pollock