



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/142

30th April 2019

Dear Mr. Mooney,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 to

'obtain information on a function which the Tanaiste attended in March. The event involved the official opening of Clonakilty Whiskey Distillery in Cork. Could you provide all copies of notes, records, memos and calls linked to the Tanaiste's attendance at the event.'

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

While the Department holds no documentation in relation to the organisation of the event, I have identified 16 records which fall within the scope of your request. These records are listed in the schedule attached.

I have made a decision to grant 1 record, part-grant 6 record and I have refused the release of 9 records. Where access has been part-granted or refused, the information is exempt from release under Section 37(1) Personal Information and Section 35 Information Provided in Confidence of the Act.

Section 37(1) Personal Information

The correspondence has been edited to remove personal details under section 37(1) *Personal Information* of the Act. Under Section 37(1) I have considered 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 full access to correspondence in a manner which demonstrates transparency and accountability of the Department. In the main, the information redacted relates to personal contact and financial information and does not affect the substance of the record. I have particularly considered whether releasing personal information 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 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 do so is correct.

Section 35 Information Provided in Confidence

In relation to Section 35 of the Act, I have considered whether the information contained in the records constitutes a breach of confidence and if the public interest would be better served by releasing the records in question. Given the information contained in these records I am satisfied that their release would constitute a breach of confidence. As such, and on balance, I have decided the public interest would not best be 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,



Jennifer Mangan
Tánaiste's Private Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade