



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/173

Date: 10th June 2019

Dear Ms. McSweeney

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 documents, data, material generated from the agri-business and trade brainstorming event held at the Embassy of Ireland in Kenya in May 2017, including but not limited to a list of attendees.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 22nd May 2019.

I have identified 12 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 10 of the records and to redact part of one, and refuse a document (attachment) to which this refers.

I have carefully considered Section 35 (1) (a) of the Act and believe that because the document referenced in the email was sent to the emailer by a third party, and not directly to Embassy Nairobi, and is clearly entitled 'Strictly Confidential', disclosure would constitute a breach of a duty of confidence. It may also prejudice the provision of such information in the future.

I have also considered Section 36(1) (b) of the Act in making my decision not to release certain information. Access to certain confidential information is essential in order to allow the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade to execute its functions. In certain instances, such information may also be of a commercially sensitive nature. In this case, I am satisfied that this document contains commercially sensitive information, the content of which was subject to ongoing contractual negotiations, and its release now could prejudice the outcome of these negotiations. I am satisfied that the balance favours refusal rather than release of those records at this time.

The other documents granted relate directly to the brainstorming meeting that you refer to which was held on Friday 26th May. This meeting included a number of Irish and Kenyan stakeholders who had been convened together to discuss possible areas of focus and collaboration which would form the basis of a strategy for the Embassy of Ireland in Kenya through which to direct support to the agri-food sector in Kenya.

Some of the records attached relate to preparations for that brainstorming meeting (including a one-page note drafted by the former Ambassador on potential areas of focus, which was then fleshed into a concept note). Others relate to the meeting itself although it has not been possible to locate any minutes of this meeting; it is possible that none were taken or circulated subsequently.

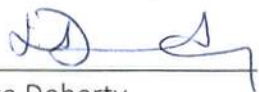
The remaining records pertain to email correspondence sent after the brainstorming meeting, and the eventual Ireland-Kenya Agri-food Strategy which was published over one year later.

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



Lisa Doherty,
Responding Officer,
Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Cooperation,
Embassy Nairobi