Our Ref: FoI/Req/19/184

Date 27 June 2019

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:

"I wish to request all records held by your HR/Personnel Department concerning the recruitment and selection, including appeals/reviews, of the 2018 Election Observation Roster."

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 12 June 2019.

Having conducted a search of the records held in Human Resources, I have not located any documents that fall within the scope of your request. Therefore, your request falls for refusal on administrative grounds under Section 15(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act, as “the record concerned does not exist”.

The 2018 volunteer election roster selection process was led by the Civil Society and Development Cooperation Unit (CSDEU) of the Department’s Development Cooperation and Africa Division. CSDEU holds the file on the mustering of this voluntary roster, including records concerning the selection process, the appeals process, the training and security vetting of new roster members, and all other matters concerning the servicing of the European Union and OSCE election observation missions. The Human Resources Unit has not retained duplicate 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 foci@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,

Stephen Donnelly
Human Resources