



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

Mr. Brian Buckley:

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/203

19 July 2019

Dear Mr. Buckley

I refer to the request which you have made, dated 27 Jun 2019, under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

*"All records pertaining to flight and landing of
plane registered : UR-82072 on June 3rd 2018 at Shannon Airport
plane registered : UR-82009 on June 28th 2018 at Shannon Airport
plane registered : UR-82073 on August 2nd 2018 at Shannon Airport
plane registered : UR-82029 on Aug 31st 2018 at Shannon Airport
plane registered : UR-82029 on July 2nd 2018 at Shannon Airport"*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 3 July 2019.

I have identified 15 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached.

Schedule of records

The schedule of records attached details the documents deemed relevant to your request. The schedule also indicates which material has been granted. All records have been made available to you however certain aspects of the records have been redacted for the following reason:

Section 37 – Personal Information

While Section 37(1) Personal Information is a mandatory exemption I am still obliged to consider 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 access to correspondence in a manner which demonstrates transparency and accountability of the Department. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information, which includes names, addresses, email addresses etc., 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 partially redact the records and remove identifiable information is correct.

I would also like to take this opportunity to outline this Department's role in the regulation of munitions of war, weapons and dangerous goods.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has primary responsibility for the regulation of foreign civil aircraft in Ireland. Under the Air Navigation (Carriage of Munitions of War, Weapons and Dangerous Goods) Order of 1973, the carriage of munitions of war is prohibited on civil aircraft through Irish airspace or airports unless an exemption has been obtained in advance from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. Questions concerning the operation of the application process are a matter for that Department.

When the operator of a civil aircraft makes an application for such an exemption, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport seeks the advice of relevant Government Departments and agencies. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is consulted in relation to any foreign policy issues that may arise and may provide observations to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport which makes the final decision on all applications.


The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's provision of advice to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in respect of such requests is guided by and accords with Ireland's longstanding policy of military neutrality, as well as Ireland's obligations under international humanitarian law.

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@dfat.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@dfat.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



Marcella Smyth
Deputy Director
International Security Policy Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade