



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2019/209

9 August 2019

Dear Ms. Lentin

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 records- emails, letters, meeting minutes, phone call notes, briefing documents, relating to the visit last month (June 2019) of Rabbi Andrew Baker to your department.'

'The minutes of the Plenary session meeting of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) of 26th May 2016 at which representatives of the Human Rights Section of your department participated.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 16th July 2019.

In relation to the first part of your request, I have identified **41** 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 records, part-grant 29 record, and refuse 2 records.

Of the 29 records part-granted, 28 have been edited to remove only the personal details of the individuals concerned under Section 37 (1) of the Act, Personal Information.

One record has been part-granted under Section 33 of the Act, which relates to the security, defence and international relations of the State. I have redacted pages 2-5 of said record under Section 33(1)(d).

In making the decision to partially exempt this record, I have considered the public interest. This Department is responsible for managing relations between Ireland and 178 countries, in a complex and diverse environment. Based on the Department's direct knowledge and expertise in international relations, its strongly held position is that the granting of access to these scheduled records will adversely affect the State's relations by introducing major doubts with regard to the security and confidentiality of our diplomatic communications and the effective conduct of its functions by this Department. I am therefore satisfied that the balance favours refusal rather than release.

2 records have been exempted on administrative grounds under Section 15(1)(d) of the Act, as the information they contain is publically available. I have, however, included links in the schedule to the relevant documents for ease of reference.

Having conducted a search of the Department's records in relation to the second part of your request, I have not located any documents that fall within the scope of your request. Accordingly, your request falls for refusal on administrative grounds under Section 15(1)(a) of the Act, as "the record concerned does not exist".

However, I have included a copy of the executive summary of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Plenary meetings which took place in Bucharest from 23-26 May 2016.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Mac Kenna', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ruth Mac Kenna
EU Division