



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/19/277

15 October 2019

Dear Mr. Down,

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 am submitting a Freedom of Information request under the 2014 Freedom of Information Act copies of records recording discussion of the change of departmental policy from publishing details of the recipients of Foreign Aid in sum of € 50, 0000 upwards to publishing a list of recipients in the sums of €100, 000 upwards.

The 2017 Irish Aid Annual Report lists, beginning on page 74, Civil Society Organisations in receipt of €100 K or more whereas previously recipients in receipt of € 50 K or more were listed in the Irish Aid Annual Reports. Presumably the listing of only recipients of aid in the sums of € 100 k upwards rather than from € 50 K upwards is the result of a change of departmental policy.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on the 30th of September 2019.

Having conducted a search of the Department's records, 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".

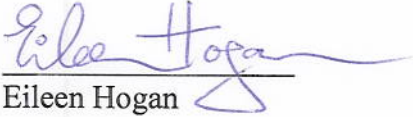
The decision to publish details of funding to CSOs from €100k upwards only was made in the context of additional material being provided in the 2017 Annual Report through the publication of information showing the extent of Ireland's Bilateral and Multilateral Official Development Assistance in both tabular and cartographical format.

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 02 DX45 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


Eileen Hogan