

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála

Oifig na bPasanna, Teach Knockmaun, 42-47 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach,
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 TN83

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Passport Office, Knockmaun House, 42-47 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2 D02 TN83

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/311

Mr. Cianan Brennan,
The Irish Examiner.

26th November, 2019.

Dear Mr. Brennan,

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 formal questions delivered to the Attorney General from DFAT regarding the legal basis for requiring a Public Services Card in order to apply for a passport in certain circumstances, dated between August 1st 2018 and August 31st 2018

The date and time on which the questions were sent, authors of the delivered message(s), and the date and time of their receipt

All meta-properties of any and all Microsoft Office files created in the drafting of those questions (eg creator, author, amendments, changes log etc)

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 6th November.

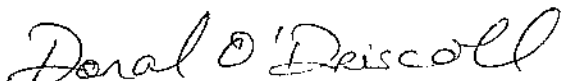
I am the Deciding Officer in this case. I have identified 2 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to refuse access to both records under Section 31 (1) (a) as the records are exempt on the ground of legal privilege. Material that falls within the area of legal professional privilege is a record that was brought into existence for the purpose of seeking legal advice. Draft letters that would disclose the content of requests for legal advice and communications between a legal adviser and the client that disclose such communications also fall within the area of legal professional privilege.

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.

If you wish to, 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 staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,


Donal O'Driscoll
Passport Service