

**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**

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

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/342

Mr. TJ McIntyre.

19th December, 2019.

Dear Mr. McIntyre,

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:

***In parliamentary questions numbers 110 of 5 November 2019 and 87 of 13 November 2019 Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the following questions:***

***110. Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of Departments that have access to data and photographs contained in the Passport Service data sets; the purpose for which each Department is using data; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [44827/19]***

***87. Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade further to Parliamentary Question No. 110 of 5 November 2019, the number of instances in the past 20 years to date data (details supplied) was accessed by An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces, the Airport Police Service and other public authorities; the number of complaints lodged by Irish passport holders regarding the access of the data; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [46852/19]***  
***This is a FOI request for all records relating to the answering of these questions.***

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. I wish to inform you that under Section 42 (j) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 the Act does not apply to a record given by an FOI body to a member of the Government or a Minister of State for use by him or her for the purposes of any proceedings in either House of the Oireachtas or any committee of either or both of such Houses or any subcommittee of such a committee (including such proceedings in

relation to questions put by members of either such House to members of the Government or Ministers of State (whether answered orally or in writing)).

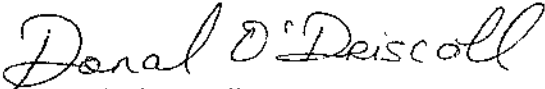
Therefore your request falls for refusal under Section 42 (j) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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