



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

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2020/189 and FoI/Req/2020/194

Date: 5 November 2020

Craig Farrell
The Irish Sun

Dear Craig,

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

FOI/Req/2020/189

A copy of all correspondences (including any attachments therein) from any member of RTE's executive board and the Minister (and/or his advisors/ department officials) in relation to state funding, the TV license, and/or general RTE's financial matters, to cover the period Jan 1, 2020, to date.

FOI/Req/2020/194

- **A copy of any briefing documents compiled for the Minister in preparation of the RTE meetings listed in the reference below.**
- **A copy of any minutes, notes, memos, etc from RTE meetings with the Minister listed in the reference below.**
- **A copy of any communications (internal or external) arising from the meetings listed in the reference below.**

Reference: <https://www.lobbying.ie/return/55472/raidi%C3%B3--teilif%C3%ADs-%C3%A9ireann>

With regard to FOI request FOI/Req/2020/189, the Department of Foreign Affairs holds no records that fall under the scope of this request.

With regard to FOI request FOI/Req/2020/194, the Department of Foreign Affairs does have records that fall under the scope of this request and these records are listed in the attached schedule.

I have made a decision to part grant access to these records as follows:

Records refused/part-granted under Section 37 of the Act – Personal Information

While Section 37 (1) 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. In the main, the refusal of access or part-grant records is due to those records relating to personal identifiable information and much of it does not affect the substance of the record. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information would provide any additional benefit in this regard. I have weighed this against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private and have found that there is a clear prerogative for this information to remain private.

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



Shirley Pollock
Office of the Minister
for Foreign Affairs