



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/20/031

Peter McGuire

25 March 2020

Dear Mr. McGuire,

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

***1. All correspondence to and from the Minister for Foreign Affairs in relation to the Children and Family Relationships Act (2015), during the period Feb 1, 2014 to April 6, 2015 and the period Feb 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020.***

***2. All correspondence to and from the Minister for Foreign Affairs in relation to the Assisted Reproduction Bill (2017) during the period January 1, 2017 to January 31, 2020***

I would like to take this opportunity to thank for your agreement in making this request more manageable and for granting additional time to allow the Department carry out appropriate searches of its records. 6 records have been identified that fall within the scope of your request.

The information redacted from the records falls under Section 37(1) Personal Information. 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. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information, which includes names, addresses, email addresses etc., would provide any additional benefit in this regard. I have weighed this against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private. For records 5 and 6, the names have not been redacted as the individuals by engaging with the media and elected representatives has allowed for their information to be released into the public domain.

The personal information which I have redacted does not have any bearing on the substance or detail of the records, and does not diminish or alter the views expressed, and as such, I am satisfied that on balance the decision to partially redact the records and remove identifiable information is correct. The redactions carried out on these records has no impact on the substance of the information contained therein, so I consider this request granted.

## **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.

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

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Peter Downes  
Freedom of Information Office