



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/206

6 October 2021

Dear Mr Weckler,

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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request copies of all briefings, correspondence and notes recorded by, sent to or received by, the Dept's Data Protection Officer. This is for the time period of July 1st to September 30th, 2020.

You narrowed the scope of your request by stating:

I'm looking for any correspondence, records or briefings that relate to an assessment of Minister Coveney's phone being breached. This is for the time period of July 1st to September 30th, 2020.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 13 September 2021.

The records you are seeking are not held by the Department of Foreign Affairs. Accordingly, I am obliged to refuse your request on administrative grounds under Section 15 (1) (a) of the FOI Act, which states that;

*"A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where —
(a) the record concerned does not exist. . . "*

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, (€10 for medical card holders). A copy of the medical card should be provided to avail of the reduced fee. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01-4082618.

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,

Kieran Houlihan
Data Protection Officer