



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs**

Our Ref FOI/Req/21/309

Date: 28 January 2022

Dear Darragh McDonagh

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:

*“I wish to request access to the following records under the Freedom of Information Act:*

- copies of all text messages received or sent by Minister Simon Coveney regarding a gathering at Iveagh House following the UN Security Council election on June 17, 2020, including SMS and messages on other messaging apps.*
- copies of text messages sent and received by Minister Simon Coveney regarding the same 2020 gathering at Iveagh House between December 28, 2021 and the present date, including messages on other messaging apps.”*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 11 January 2022.

Following a full and comprehensive search of all relevant devices, I have determined that for the time period specified for this request, the records concerned do not exist or cannot be found.

Accordingly, I am obliged to apply section 15 of the Act to your request, as specified under Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act:

*15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where—*

- (a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken.*

## 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, (€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](mailto: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



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Andrew Guyett