



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: FoI/Req/22/020

Date: 17 February 2022

Dear Mr 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:

“copies of all records relating to the ordering, production, purchase and distribution of memorabilia and merchandise branded Security Council 2021-2022 or similar pertaining to Ireland's bid for a seat on the UN Security Council, including but not limited to socks that were produced to this specification. The records should include the quantity and cost of each item paid for by the DFA, and the total cost incurred for the purpose of producing such items.”

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 25 January 2022.

I have identified 141 records that fall within the scope of your request above. A schedule of these records is attached and the records themselves are available at the following link for 30 days: <https://dfa-ie.sharefile.eu/d-s7a8d7b16b4b0484f907e1aa527d40be8>

I have carefully considered the content of all the records identified in the context of the relevant legislation and in consultation with the Department's Freedom of Information Unit.

I have made the decision to grant 25 records, listed as numbers 1a, 3a, 4a, 6a, 7a, 7b, 10a, 10b, 11a, 12, 20a, 22a, 24a, 31a, 39a, 41, 45a, 45b, 63a, 76a, 77a, 83a, 83b, 106, and 108 in the schedule.

I have made the decision to part-grant 116 records, listed as numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 27a, 28, 28a, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 35a, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 42a, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 51a, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 58a, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 66a, 67, 67a, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 85a, 86, 87, 88, 88a, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 96a, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, and 107 in the schedule.

In accordance with section 37(1) of the Act, I have redacted personal information from records 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 27a, 28, 28a, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 35a, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 42a, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 51a, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 58a, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 66a, 67, 67a, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 85a, 86, 87, 88, 88a, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 96a, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, and 107. 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 considered whether releasing the very limited amount of redacted personal information would provide any additional benefit to the public. 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. The personal information redacted under section 37 (1) relates to the names and contact details of individuals who are not public servants, and to company bank account details which are not in the public domain. These redactions do not affect the substance of the records.

I have redacted part of record 16 as it falls outside of the scope of your request.

The records show the total amount spent on ordering, production, purchase and distribution of memorabilia and merchandise branded Security Council 2021-2022 or similar pertaining to Ireland's bid for a seat on the UN Security Council was €150,903.08. This includes stationery such as notebooks, pens, and pencils, and other items such as lanyards for use by officials in their daily duties and to advance Ireland's campaign for a UN Security Council seat.

The total costs incurred by Ireland for the campaign, at approximately €860,000, compares favourably with those of our competitors, Norway (estimated €2.8 million) and Canada (estimated €1.5 million).

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, 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



Fergal Horgan
Political Division