

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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2018/017

14 February 2018

Dear Requester,

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:

The number and a list of all bills enacted and which relate to matters for which the minister has responsibility since 2011.

- the number of reports reviewing such legislation laid by the minister before an Oireachtas committee since 2011 as required under Dáil standing orders 141A (now 164A).
- drafts of all such reports which may have been commenced or prepared but not laid in the Dáil library.
- all internal memos, notes or guidelines held by your department relating to compliance with Standing Order 164A (and its predecessor 141A in the 31st/32nd Dáil.

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

I have identified one record that falls within the scope of the first part of your request. While this is already publicly available I have included it below for ease of reference. With regard to parts two to four of your request I am refusing your request on administrative grounds under Section 15(1)(a) of the Act the records concerned does not exist.

Since 2011 this Department has sponsored four items of legislation, as set out in the table below. Post-enactment scrutiny was adopted for the duration of the 31st Dáil through Standing Order 141A, effective from 5 November 2013, and was adopted by Standing Order 164A for the 32nd Dáil. In that light, the requirement does not apply to the first two pieces of legislation listed as they pre-date the requirement. With regard to the *Diplomatic Relations* (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 and the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention) Bill 2017, both were enacted in December 2017 and post-enactment reports will be issued in due course, in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 164A. There are no internal memos, notes or guidelines held by this Department relating to compliance with either standing order.

Name of Bill	Year
European Communities (Amendment) Bill	2012
Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution Bill (Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union) Bill.	2012
Diplomatic Relations (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	2016
Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict(Hague Convention) Bill	2017

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 <u>foi@dfa.ie</u>. 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 <u>foi@dfa.ie</u>, 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

Frances Kiernan