



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**  
Dublin 2

24 April 2018

Mr Sean Defoe

**Our Ref: Fol/Req/2018/076**

Dear Mr. Defoe,

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:

*“Records of concerns raised about the Russian embassy, diplomats or agents acting in Ireland. Contacts to or from the Minister’s office in relation to Russian activity in Ireland. Documents relating to or referencing Russian intelligence activity in Ireland. The timeline is from January 2012 to present.”*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 5 April 2018.

I am satisfied that the disclosure of the existence or non-existence of the information you seek would prejudice the security of the State, the defence of the State and the international relations of the State and in that light I can neither confirm nor deny that this Department holds information falling within the scope of your request by virtue of Sections 33(1)(a)(b)(d) and 33(4) of the FOI Act, Security, defence and international relations.

**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

Caitríona de Búrca