



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Oifig na bPasanna, Sráid Theach Laighean, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Passport Office, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

Mr. Anthony Sheridan
Email:

Our ref; FoI/Req/2014/095

26th November, 2014.

Dear Mr Sheridan

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 (the Act) in which you requested:

1. *Any list which includes, but is not limited to, the names and positions of current holders of Diplomatic passports.*
2. *Any list which includes, but is not limited to, the names and positions of current holders of Official passports.*

I have made a decision to part grant your request and attach a schedule which shows the documents relevant to your request.

In my decision to refuse the names of the passport holders I have decided that all the records come within the scope of Section 37(1) of the Act which makes provision for the refusal of records that involves the disclosure of personal information in respect of the individuals concerned. In making this decision I have had to consider that disclosure would involve identifying the place of or nature of employment of the individuals concerned without the prior consent of the individuals in circumstances where such information is not in the public domain.

Furthermore, some of the records come within the scope of Section 32(1) of the Act, and as such I am obliged to refuse to release any information in regard to them. This section of the Act makes provision for the non disclosure of certain records that could affect law enforcement and public safety. These records are also being refused access under Section 33(1) which makes provision for the exemption of certain records in the interest of security, defence and international relations. In making this decision I have had to consider that the disclosure of these names could also put at risk the personal security of those involved and by extension their families and additionally their capacity to freely travel to undertake business on behalf of the State.

In addition, under Section 42 of the Act records relating to the President are exempt from disclosure and therefore this information has been redacted.

Having balanced these issues along with the broad public interest in providing access to public records I have decided to release the titles of the current official and diplomatic passport holders

and the numbers of passport holders under each title. In a separate list I have included the number of spouses, civil partners and children who hold diplomatic and official passports.

For your information I also enclose the following:

- a) eligibility criteria used in determining access to a Diplomatic or Official passport and
- b) the declaration required to be completed by those individuals in receipt of a Diplomatic or Official passport.

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@dfat.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@dfat.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



Teresa McHugh
Passport Office
Molesworth Street
Dublin 2