



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/15/004

Senator Kathryn Reilly  
By email: Kathryn.reilly@oireachtas.ie

3 February 2015

Dear Senator Reilly

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:

"Information of meetings between the Minister and/or officials of the Department with British Embassy, British Government on the issue of recent revelations that GCHQ had directly tapped undersea communications cables between Ireland and Britain; minutes of these meetings; correspondence on this issue within the Department; correspondence received on this issue by Department; any advice received on this issue".

I have identified 29 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant/part-grant 8 of the records.

Where access to a record, or part of a record, has been refused, the records are exempt from release under the following sections of the FOI Act:

**Section 15** (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where—(d) the information is already in the public domain,

**Section 31**(1) A head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned—  
(c) consists of—(ii) opinions, advice, recommendations, or the results of consultations, considered by—

(I) either House of the Oireachtas or the Chairman or Deputy Chairman or any other member of either such House or a member of the staff of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service for the purposes of the proceedings at a sitting of either such House, or

(II) a committee appointed by either such House or jointly by both such Houses and consisting of members of either or both of such Houses or a member of such a committee or a member of the staff of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service for the purposes of the proceedings at a meeting

**Section 33** (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request in relation to a record (and in particular but without prejudice to the generality otherwise of this subsection, to a record to which *subsection (2)* applies) if, in the opinion of the head, access to it could reasonably be expected to affect adversely—

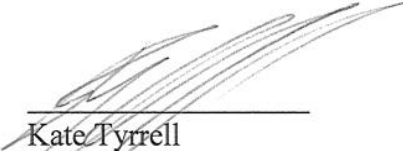
- (a) the security of the State,
- (b) the defence of the State, or
- (d) the international relations of the State.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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



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Kate Tyrrell  
Responding Officer