

29 October 2015

Our Ref: Fol/Req/15096

Mr Senan Molony  
Political Editor  
Irish 'Daily Mail'

Dear Mr Molony,

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:

***To ask the Department of Foreign Affairs, under FOI, for all correspondence, reports and documentation, including email, whether internally or externally generated, in relation to Dara Murphy, Minister of State for European Affairs, and Irish Ambassador / EU Perm Rep Declan Kelleher. \*Timeframe July 1, 2014 to October 1, 2015.\* This would include all matters relating to Mr Murphy, whether on logistical, personal or policy matter/s, to including meetings and proposed meetings, travel arrangements, accommodation, transport, entertainment, accompaniment etc, to correspondence to and from the Ambassador mentioning Mr. Murphy in relation to his visits to Brussels.***

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. I have identified 145 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 129 of the records.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under Section 33 (1) (d), Section 32 (2) (b) (ii) and Section 33 (3) (c) (ii), of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

As you will appreciate, the role of Minister of State at the Departments of An Taoiseach and Foreign Affairs and Trade, with special Responsibility for European Affairs and Data Protection, includes an obligation to undertake a very significant amount of official travel overseas. This Department is fully compliant with the Department of Finance guidelines on foreign travel and it operates its own detailed internal travel guidelines and practises which ensure cost effective travel.

The central aim of the Departmental travel policy, which applies to both Ministers and officials, is to minimise official travel costs and to achieve value for money for expenditure necessarily incurred, consistent with the effective discharge of official duties.


#### **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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*Eddie Brannigan*

*First Secretary*

*Head of Press and Information*

*Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU*