

Our Ref: FoI/Req/16/075

Mr Ruadhán Mac Cormaic  
The Irish Times  
24-28 Tara Street  
Dublin 2

11 July 2016

Dear Mr. Mac Cormaic,

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:

*All correspondence to/from the Office of the Secretary General in relation to the policy document that was ultimately named 'The Global Island' and published in January 2015. I am seeking all correspondence on the matter from 1 January 2014 to 15 January 2015.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 13 June 2016.

I have identified 51 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 19 of the records, part-grant 2 of the records and refuse 30 of the records.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under Sections 28 (1) (a) Meetings of the Government, 29 (1) (a) Deliberative Process, 33 (1) (d) International Relations; 33 (2) (b) International Relations; 35 (1) Information given in confidence; and 37 (1) Personal Information.

The records being released relate to the planning process for the drafting of *The Global Island: Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World*, which was published in January 2015 following approval by Government. The records include initial exchanges with, and comments from, our colleagues in other Government Departments on the preparatory process and initial food for thought documents discussed by our Management Advisory Committee.

*The Global Island* itself was agreed by Government in January 2015 and, in light of that, a number of documents have not been granted under Section 28 (1) (a). A final version of the review is included in the documents for your records.

## **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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Olivia Leslie  
Strategy and Performance Unit  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade