

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2015/78

Mr Vincent O'Dowd

Dear Mr O'Dowd

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:

Copies of all prepared notes/memos etc. intended for Department of Foreign Affairs Ministers, Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General for the visit of Rwandan President Paul Kagame in March 2014. I seek to view minutes/memos etc. relating to meetings held with President Paul Kagame by any and all of the aforementioned officials and politicians at the time of his visit to Ireland in March last year.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 1st September 2015.

There are no records that fall within the scope of your request. I would also point out that the FOI Act (2014) does not apply to a record relating to the President. In this regard, I would refer you to Section 42(h) of the Act.

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 <u>foi@dfat.ie</u>. 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 <u>foi@dfat.ie</u>, 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.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 01-4082828.

Yours sincerely.

Paula Kenny

Desk Officer

Development Cooperation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade