



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**  
Dublin 2

13 March 2015

Mr. Richard Dowling  
RTÉ News,  
RTÉ,  
Donnybrook,  
Dublin 4.

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2015/012

Dear Mr. Dowling

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

- 1. A copy of all records relating to blank visa stickers lost by the Department or its staff since 1 January 2010**
- 2. A copy of all records relating to blank passports lost by the Department or its staff since 1 January 2010**

I refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 26 January, 2015. I also refer to our communications regarding an extension of time for this request until 13 March, 2015 and appreciate your agreement in this regard.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case and, after reviewing the records, I have identified a total of 240 records relating to the loss of blank visa stickers, all relating to a single instance of theft. I have made a final decision to grant 62, to part grant 48 and to refuse 130. Where access has been refused or part-granted, the records or the withheld part thereof are exempt from release under the following sections of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

- 30(1)(a) functions and negotiations test and procedures,
- 31(1)(a) legal advice
- 32(1)(a)(i) ongoing investigation
- 32 (1) (c) facilitate the commission of an offence
- 33(1)(1)(a) security of the state
- 33(3)(a) information obtained in respect of security of state
- 33(3)(b) information for detection, prevention or suppression of activities undermining public order
- 33(1)(d) damage international relations
- 37 (1) personal information

In respect of the records where mandatory refusal does not apply, I have carefully considered both the nature and source of these records and I am satisfied that, on balance, the public interest is best served in refusing access to them.

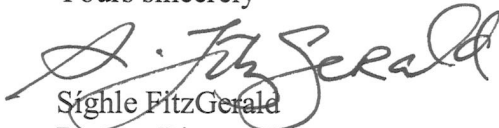
In relation to the second element of your request, I can confirm that no records exist relating to the loss of blank passports.

**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



Síghle FitzGerald  
Deputy Director  
Corporate Services Division