



28 July 2015

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2015/061

Stephen O'Brien
The Sunday Times
4th Floor
Bishop's Square
Dublin 2

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

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:

'access to records of correspondence between Minister Charlie Flanagan and any of his cabinet colleagues since July 1, 2014. I am interested in seeing copies of correspondence sent and received by the minister.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 3 July 2015.

I have identified 21 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 in full, to part-grant 1 record, and to refuse 1 record.

Where access has been refused, the record in question is exempt from release under Part 4 – Section 33 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 together with Schedule 1, part 2.

Where access has been part-granted, the withheld parts are exempt from release under Section 33 (1)(d) of the Act. I am satisfied that release of these records would adversely affect the international relations of the State and that the public interest is best served in refusing access to them.

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. 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, 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Orla Hunt".

Orla Hunt
Minister's Private Office