



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Our Ref: Fol/Req/16105 and 16106

11th August 2016

Mr Martin Grant

Irish Independent

Independent House

27-32 Talbot Street

Dublin 1

Dear Mr Grant,

I refer to the requests which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

Fol/Req/16105

All FOI requests (non-personal) submitted by journalist Mr Ken Foxe since 2014.

All FOI (non-personal) requests submitted by journalist Gavin Sheridan since 2014.

Fol/Req/16106

A list of all FOIs (non-personal) request submitted to your department since February 2016. Please provide the exact wording of the request

I refer also to the acknowledgements of your requests which were sent to you on 21st July 2016.

I am the responding officer to these requests.

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act affords members of the public access to information in the possession of this Department. The Act provides that access be granted to the greatest possible extent consistent with public interest and the right to privacy. In line with the principles of transparency and accountability this Department publishes as much information as possible in an open and accessible manner on a routine basis outside of FOI. If information is not available on the website or elsewhere members of the public can consider making a FOI request. Officers responding to requests devote considerable time and resources considering and responding to requests to facilitate as open access as possible to Departmental records. In that spirit of openness this Department has a long standing policy of publishing non-personal FOI requests, responses and record schedules on the Department's website www.dfa.ie.

In the case of request FoI/Req/16106 I have identified one record which falls within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the schedule below. I have made a decision to grant the record.

Record Description		Granted
1.	A list of all non-personal FOI requests received in 2016 including the wording of the request.	Granted

Regarding request FoI/Req/16105 I refer you to our previous correspondence in 2015 regarding non-personal FOI requests. I refer in particular to my email message of 11th Spetember 2015 which included a record of such requests submitted to this Department in 2013, 2014 and 2015. That record included non-personal requests submitted by both Ken Foxe and Gavin Sheridan in those three years. For ease of reference I have attached a copy of this record. With regard to their non-personal requests made in 2016 the record issued to you in response to FOI/16106 includes Mr Foxe and Mr Sheridan's non personal requests.

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


Frances Kiernan