



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

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

Our Ref: FoI/Req/16/112

Wayne O'Connor,  
Sunday Independent,  
27-32 Talbot Street,  
Dublin 1.

Dear Mr O'Connor,

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:

1. Correspondence between the Minister's office and the office of his UK counterpart between June 22 2016 and the date of this letter [26 July 2016].
2. A copy of all briefing documents prepared for the Minister between June 22 2016 and the date of this letter [26 July 2016], on the issue of the UK referendum vote to Leave the European Union.

There are no records corresponding to the first part of your request, but I have identified 69 records that fall within the scope of second part of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant one record, part-grant four records and refuse the remaining records. Please note that twenty-eight of the documents covered by your request are already publicly available, and I have included links where applicable.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under sections 15(1)(d), 28(1)(c), 29(1)(a), 30(1)(c), 33(1)(c), 33(1)(d) and 42(j):

- Section 15(1)(d) applies to records which are already in the public domain, and for these twenty-eight records I have included a link to the documents in question.
- Section 28(1)(c) applies to records which "contain information (including advice) for a member of the Government, the Attorney General, a Minister of State, the Secretary General to the Government for use by him or her solely for the purpose of the transaction of any business of the Government at a meeting of the Government".
- Section 30(1)(c) applies to records which if released would "disclose positions taken, or to be taken, or plans, procedures, criteria or instructions used or followed, or to be used or followed, for the purpose of any negotiations carried on or being, or to be, carried on by or on behalf of the Government or an FOI body".
- Section 33(1)(c) applies to records which if released could adversely affect "matters relating to Northern Ireland".
- Section 33(1)(d) applies to records which if released could adversely affect "the international relations of the State".
- Section 42(j) applies to records which are "given by an FOI body to a member of the Government or a Minister of State for use by him or her for the purposes of any proceedings in either House of the Oireachtas or any committee of either or both of such Houses or any subcommittee of such a committee (including such proceedings in relation to questions put by Members of either such House to members of the Government or Ministers of State (whether answered orally or in writing))".

### **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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Oliver', is written over a horizontal line.

Kate Oliver