



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

Property Management Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
76-78 Harcourt St
Dublin 2

Mr Ken Foxe
Freelance Reporter/Assistant Lecturer DIT

21st June 2017

Re : FOI request FOI/Req/17/088 Ken Foxe (DFAT objection to redevelopment of Loreto House)

Dear Mr Foxe,

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 records – to include emails, memos, letters, reports, submissions, and so on – relating to preparation of an objection by DFA to development of a hotel at Loreto House on St Stephen's Green."

I have identified 8 records which fall within the scope of your request and these are described in the attached schedule. The planning process is ongoing and as the Department can appeal the decision of the Planning Authority, I am as the deciding officer, refusing to grant you access to these records, under Section 30 (1)(c) of the Act.

"30. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to—

(c) 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. "

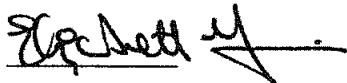
I have considered whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the record in question in terms of the right of the public to have access to information and the need for transparency in decision making process. However, given the nature of the records I am satisfied that on balance the public interest would not be best served by releasing the information at this time.

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 St, 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Finn', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Liz Finn

PMU
76-78 Harcourt St
Dublin 2