



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/17/212

20 November 2017

Dear Mr. Cameron,

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) Discussions or documents regarding any preparations the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has made for Border Inspection Posts along the Irish border in response to Brexit (since June 2016)*

*2) What discussions, exchanges or notes of meetings the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has had with the UK government over the issue of Border Inspection Posts since June 2016'.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 3 November 2017.

I have identified no records that fall within the scope of your request.

Regarding the subject matter of your request, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is of the view that there cannot be a return to any border on this island. The objective of avoiding a hard border is shared by both the EU and the UK. The European Council Guidelines that set out the EU's position for the Article 50 negotiations state clearly that, in view of the unique circumstances on the island of Ireland, flexible and imaginative solutions will be required to avoid a hard border, including the absence of physical border infrastructure. The position of the Government of Ireland is that a political solution to the border issue is required and technical solutions cannot be the starting point.

Information on the Government's approach to Brexit can be found on [merrionstreet.ie](http://merrionstreet.ie) at [https://merrionstreet.ie/en/EU-UK/Key\\_Irish\\_Documents/ Updates](https://merrionstreet.ie/en/EU-UK/Key_Irish_Documents/Updates) on the Government's ongoing stakeholder engagements can also be found on [merrionstreet.ie/en/EU-UK](http://merrionstreet.ie/en/EU-UK).

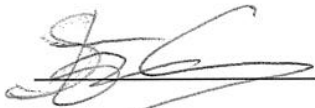
### Right of Appeal

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@dfa.ie](mailto:foi@dfa.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@dfa.ie](mailto:foi@dfa.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 be 'SG', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Garry