



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

2nd February 2017

Mr Ruadhán Mac Cormaic
The Irish Times
The Irish Times Building
24 – 28 Tara Street
Dublin 2

Re: FOI/Req/17/005

Dear Mr Mac Cormaic,

I refer to your FOI request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 received on the 6th of January 2017 seeking records relating to the following:

All records, including correspondence, notes, memos and minutes, connected to the decision-making process for Irish Aid's multiannual funding round for aid agencies for the period 2017-21. The request encompasses records from July 1st 2016 to December 31st 2016.

This letter has two parts as follows:

- FoI Decision
- Consideration of the Public Interest

Decision

As responding officer, I have identified one record related to your request which cover the period 1st July 2016 to 31st December 2016. This record is set out in the attached schedule to this letter. I have decided to release part grant access to the record as listed in the attached schedule.

I have decided part granted access to the record as the record in my view contains information that falls within Section 30(1) c. Functions and negotiations of FOI bodies of the 2014 Freedom of Information Act and the release of same could prejudice current and future discussions with organisations named in the record.

Consideration of the Public Interest

As required by the 2014 Freedom of Information Act, I am also required to consider specific considerations in relation to the public interest and the harm test where access has been part granted under specific sections of the Act as outlined below.

Section 30 Functions and Negotiations of the FOI Act


Regarding the record which has been exempted under Section 30 of the 2014 FOI Act, I have part granted this record under Section 30 of the Act which relates to Functions and Negotiations of FOI Bodies as release of the information would disclose positions taken by the Department. I feel release of the information would have an adverse impact on the effective conduct of the functions of this Department including ongoing negotiations and discussions with organisations mentioned in this record. I have considered the right of the public to have access to information and the need for an open and accountable civil service. I am satisfied that the balance favours part granting in redacted format rather than release.

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. A fee applies for non-personal information; the level of this fee has been set at €30. For methods of payment please contact FOI@DFA.IE or telephone 01 4082857.

You should make this appeal within four weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification. However the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. This appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior officer of this Department.

Yours sincerely



Elisa Cavacece

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade