



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**

Oifig na bPasanna, Teach Knockmaun, 42-47 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach,  
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 TN83

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Passport Office, Knockmaun House, 42-47 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2 D02 TN83

9<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Our Ref: 17/182

Mr Cianan Brennan,  
c/o TheJournal.ie,  
4th Floor,  
Golden Lane,  
Latin Hall,  
Dublin 8

Dear Mr Brennan,

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:

*All queries/complaints from the public concerning the expansion of the Public Services Card for passport applications services dating from 1 March 2017 until 11 September 2017.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

By the way of context to the reply to your request the Public Services Card is already a requirement for first-time, adult passport applicants who are resident in Ireland. This requirement also applies to a small number of adult passport applicants whose last passport was issued before 1 January 2005 and has since been reported lost, stolen or damaged. It is intended to extend the requirement to passport renewal applications by the end of 2018. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is currently working with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Social Protection on the modalities for the extension.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. I have identified seventeen records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant one record and part-grant the remaining sixteen records.

Where access has been part-granted, the relevant parts of the records are exempt from release under Section 37 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, which obliges the Deciding Officer to refuse access where “access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).”

Although outside the scope of the Freedom of Information request, it may be helpful to your work to review some of the parliamentary questions on the subject of the extension of the requirement for a Public Services Card if you have not done so already. Parliamentary Questions are available at [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie) and the following in particular may be of relevance:


- Reference 38149-17: Question from Deputy John Curran (answered 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017)
- Reference 25547-17: Question from Deputy Fergus O'Dowd (answered 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017)
- Reference 25675-17: Question from Deputy Seán Crowe (answered 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017)
- Reference 25730-17: Question from Deputy David Cullinane (answered 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017)

### 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 e-mail 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 the FOI Unit at [foi@dfat.ie](mailto:foi@dfat.ie) or 01-4082857.

You should make your 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. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,



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Donal O'Driscoll  
Passport Office