



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

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2019/151

Date 7 May 2019

Dear Mr. McDermott,

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:

'Any correspondence sent by members of the public to the Tánaiste regarding the Irish woman Lisa Smith who is alleged to have joined the Islamic State group.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 15 April 2019.

I have identified 17 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to part-grant the release of all of the records. Personal information has been redacted from all records under Section 37(1). Further information has been redacted from record 7, under Section 28, as it relates to discussions at Cabinet.

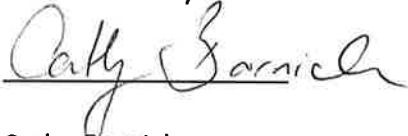
While Section 37(1) Personal Information is a mandatory exemption I am still obliged to consider whether the public interest would be best served by releasing the records in full. I have taken into account the benefit to the public to be given access to correspondence in a manner which demonstrates transparency and accountability of the Department. In the main, the information redacted relates to personal contact information and does not affect the substance of the record. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information would provide any additional benefit in this regard. I have weighed this against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private and have found that there is a clear prerogative for this information to remain private.

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 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, 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 cursive script, reading "Cathy Barnicle", written over a horizontal line.

Cathy Barnicle
Consular Division