



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/305

14 November 2019

Dear Tadhg,

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:

*Records created after 23 June 2016 relating to meetings between the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the one hand, and representatives of the soi-dissant Loyalist Community Council, Ulster Defence Association, Ulster Volunteer Force and/or Red Hand Commando, or, in the alternative, a list of such meetings with dates, location of meetings, agendas and people attending*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4 November 2019.

I have identified nine records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant/part-grant three of the records. Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under sections 29; 33; 35; 37.

In the interests of promoting peace and reconciliation across this island, the Government engages, at political and official level, with a broad range of stakeholders across all communities in Northern Ireland.

**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

*Niamh Kelpie*

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