



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/19/306

Date: 21 November 2019

Dear Ms. Ní Aodha

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:

- Correspondence sent to the Department from industry representatives, police and security experts, and members of the public expressing concerns about smuggling across the border post-Brexit. Sent between 1 May and 23 October 2019.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 6 November 2019.

I have identified 9 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 all 9 of the records.

Please note that all records listed in the attached schedule originated from correspondence sent to this Department by individual members of the public expressing concerns about smuggling across the border post-Brexit.

The records that are part-granted have been edited only insofar as to remove names and identifying details of individuals, where these are not relevant to the request, under Section 37 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. 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. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information, which includes names, addresses, email addresses etc., would provide any additional benefit in this regard. I have weighed this against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private. The personal information which I have redacted does not have any bearing on the substance or detail of the records, and does not diminish or alter the views expressed, and as such, I am satisfied that on balance the decision to partially redact the records and remove identifiable information is correct.

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



Niamh Clarke

Ireland, UK and Americas Division,
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade