



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19075

Date: 8/03/2019

Dear Mr. Ó Mongáin

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 correspondence between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Department of Justice on the subject categorising in-country refugee costs as Overseas Development Aid in line with revised OECD guidelines. I also wish to request all internal records related to this subject. The timeframe on this request is January 2017 to the present.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 12th of February 2019.

I have identified 56 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 48, to part-grant 2 and to refuse 6 of the records.

Section 30 - Functions and negotiations of FOI bodies

Under Section 30 of the Act, I have refused access to 1 record under Section 30 (1) (c) as the record discloses positions taken, for the purpose of negotiations being carried out on behalf of the Government. The release of this information would have a signification adverse impact on the effective conduct of international relations by this Department. 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 refusal rather than release.

Section 33 – Security, defence and international relations

I have refused 5 records and part granted 2 records under Section 33(3)(c)(ii). This is a mandatory exemption under the legislation and I am obliged to refuse access to records falling under that section. The records contain information communicated in confidence within an international organization (The OECD DAC).

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

Evan Cunningham

Economist

Policy Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade