Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/124

10 April 2019

Dear Mr O'Connell

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (the "Act") for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

1. All correspondence between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Houses of the Oireachtas regarding the amendments tabled by opposition parties to the Brexit Omnibus Bill

I have identified 4 documents that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant access to those documents.

I have made the further decision that some of the documents located and reviewed during the search of the Department's records fall outside the scope of the Act.

This decision has been taken on the basis of Section 42(k) of the Act in conjunction with the Standing Orders of the Houses of the Oireachtas (In particular Standing Orders 133 and 134).

For ease of reference, Section 42(k) of the Act states that the Act does not apply to:

"a record relating to any of the private papers (within the meaning of Article 15.10 of the Constitution) of a member of either House of the Oireachtas or an official document of either or both of such Houses that is required by the rules or standing orders of either or both of such Houses to be treated as confidential"

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

Ciarán Delargy