



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/155

14 May 2019

Dear Mr. Bodkin,

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, including any attachments, to and/or from the department's secretary general, assistant secretaries, special advisors and ministerial offices relating to Airbnb or regulations for short-term lettings from the period 1 September 2018 to 12 April 2019 inclusive.*

*- Any briefing notes, agendas, meeting minutes or presentations relating to meetings or phone calls with Airbnb representatives for the same people and time period.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 24 April.

Having requested a search of the Department's records, 8 records have been identified 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 7 records and refuse access to 1.

The Tánaiste's office have confirmed that they have no records of the text message exchange referenced in Record 3.

The meeting arranged for Minister of State Cannon with the Public Policy Manager, Airbnb was a private meeting, and the only record held is correspondence arranging the date in his diary.

#### Section 36 – Commercially sensitive information

I have considered Section 36 of the Act in making my decision not to release record number 5. In this case, I am satisfied that this document contains commercially sensitive information, the release of which could reasonably be expected to have business consequences for the company.

In weighing these consequences against the public interest, I have considered the right of the public to have access to information and the need for an open, transparent and accountable civil service. As there is a responsibility on the Department to ensure the company concerned is not unduly impeded in the effective pursuit of their business, I am satisfied that the balance favours refusal rather than release on this occasion.

### 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



Peter Downes

Freedom of Information Office