



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/19/207

30 July 2019

Dear Mr. Hughes,

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 submissions sent to the Minister through the e-submissions system.  
I wish for my request to cover the period from 1/4/2019 – 2/7/2019.**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 10 July 2019.

I have identified one record which falls within the scope of your request (the record is listed in the schedule attached). The record sets out e-submissions made by individual business units within the Department. I have considered whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the record in full in terms of the right of the public to have access to this information. Redactions to the record have been made by virtue of Sections 28 (1) (a) and 33 (1) (d).

I am refusing elements of this record under Section 28 (1) (a) as these are records which have been or propose to be submitted to the Government for its consideration by the Minister of the Government and was created for that purpose.

In making my decision I have considered Section 33 (1) (d) of the Act – Security, Defence and International Relations and I have exempted a number of records under this Section. This Department manages relations between Ireland and 178 countries, operating in a complex and diverse international environment, in a variety of locations and under varying local laws and customs. In order to effectively carry out its role, the Department must maintain trust and confidence between Governments and other interlocutors. If the Department does not maintain the mutuality of trust, its ability to protect and promote Ireland's interests could reasonably be expected to be adversely affected. I am satisfied that the balance favours refusal rather than release and I have refused access to certain information under Section 33 (1) (d).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julita Gallagher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

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Julita Gallagher  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade