

27<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Mr. Jack Power

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Ref: FOI/Req/19/228

Dear Mr. Power,

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 between the Director General of Irish Aid, and the head of the evaluation and audit unit, solely relating to the topic of evaluation and audit, between 1st March and 29th July 2019.**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on August 8th, 2019.

I have listed relevant records in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant three of these records and refuse four. Where access to the listed information has been refused, the records have been exempted from release by virtue of the following sections of the Act; Section 29 - Deliberations of FOI Bodies; Section 30 - Functions and negotiations of FOI bodies and Section 33- Security, defence and international relations.

Under Section 29 (1) (a) (b) of the Act (Deliberations of FOI Bodies), I have considered whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the record in question in terms of the right of the public to have access to information and the need for transparency in decision making processes. Given the nature of the record I am satisfied that its premature release would negatively impact ongoing internal discussions. On balance the public interest is best served by not releasing this record at this time.

Records have also been exempted under Section 30 (1) (a) (c) of the Act (Functions and negotiations of a FOI Body). I have considered the nature and source of the information. Public interest arguments I have considered for release include the right of the public to access information and accountability of administrators. However, on balance I consider that premature release may negatively impact any investigations that may take place without any countervailing benefit to the public.

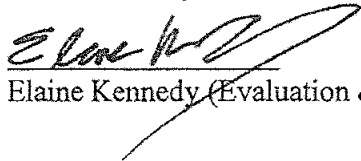
Records have also been exempt under Section 33 (1) (d) of the Act (Security, defence and international relations), I have considered whether the release of these records could adversely affect the international relation of the state. Given the nature of the record I am satisfied that its premature release would negatively affect international relations of the state,

### 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,



Elaine Kennedy (Evaluation & Audit Unit)