

**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**

Oifig na bPasanna, Teach Knockmaun, 42-47 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach,  
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 TN83

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Passport Office, Knockmaun House, 42-47 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2 D02 TN83

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/339.

Ms. Christina Finn, The Journal

19th December, 2019.

Dear Ms. Finn,

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

- 1. The total number of passport applications made by Oireachtas TDs in 2019**
- 2. The total number of passport applications made by Oireachtas Senators since in 2019**
- 3. The number of passport applications each TD applied in 2019**
- 4. The number of passport applications each Senator applied for in 2019**

**[Please list numbers 3 and 4 with the name of the TD/Senator and how many passport applications they have made to date]**

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 2nd December, 2019.

I am the deciding Officer in this case. By way of explanation, all passport applications are subject to the provisions of the Passports Act, 2008. The 2008 Act provides that a person must be an Irish citizen and satisfy the Minister as to the identity of the person before a passport can be issued to him or her. In order to meet this requirement, each person must demonstrate an entitlement to Irish citizenship by providing acceptable documentary evidence of this entitlement and of their identity. It is not open for another person to apply for a passport on behalf of the applicant, except for a child by, for example, the child's parent or guardian or for a person who is suffering from a physical or mental incapacity who authorised a person to act on his or her behalf.

The Passport Office does not compile data on T.D.s' and Senators' personal applications for a passport.

Therefore your request falls for refusal under Section 15 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 which states that an FOI request may be refused if:

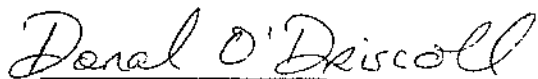
'the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken'

### **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, D02 DX45 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,



Donal O'Driscoll  
Passport Office.