



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

20 December 2019

Ronan McGreevy
The Irish Times

Our Ref: FOI/Req/19/349

Dear Mr McGreevy,

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:

- 1) "All correspondence between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Vatican relating to the proposed handover of land at St Vincent's University Hospital for the proposed national maternity hospital.
- 2) All correspondence between the Embassy of Ireland to the Holy See and the Vatican relating to the same."

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 12 December 2019.

Having conducted a search of the Department's records, I have not located any documents that fall within the scope of your request.

Therefore your request falls for refusal on administrative grounds under Section 15(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act, as "the record concerned does not exist".

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 four 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,



Steven Murphy

Desk Officer

European Neighbourhood Unit

EU Division