



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2

Our ref : Fol/Req/18/051

29 March, 2018

Dear Mr Hutton

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:

' A list of all Department files (including file names and dates) which are 30 years or older, which have not been released for public view under the provisions of the National Archives Act, along with stated reason (e.g; public interest, cause distress or danger to living persons, etc) for their being withheld from public view.'

I wish to now advise you that your request has been refused under Section 15 (1) (a) and Section 15 (1) (d) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 on the basis that (i) the records you have requested do not exist prior to 2006 i.e. files restricted between 1998 and 2006 are not available in the format that you have requested (ii) since 2006 lists of files restricted by this department in the format that you have requested, are available in the public domain i.e in the National Archives of Ireland.

You should note that prior to 2006 restricted files were not listed separately but were included on the main lists of files transferred to the National Archives with a 'Restricted' notation above the ref number of each file restricted. Reasons for restriction were not included on these lists. If however a member of the public requests information on the reason/s a particular file/s transferred prior to 2006 was/were restricted, relevant information will be provided. Files restricted from 2006 onwards were listed separately and contain the reasons for restriction. These lists are, as already stated, all available in the National Archives.

For information, this department is one of the few departments who release information and/or lists of restricted files into the public domain. On receipt of requests from members of the public for access to any of the restricted files on these lists this department will review said files. After review files will then be either de restricted and released into the public domain or the restriction will be upheld as appropriate.

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 e mail 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@dfa.ie](mailto:FOI@dfa.ie) or 01-4082857.



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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 staff of this department.

Yours sincerely,

M. Sweeney

Archives Unit