



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2018/084

30 April 2018

Dear Requester,

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:

Documents outlining any advice or briefings given to Minister Simon Coveney about the legal or constitutional barriers to establishing a two-thirds Dail majority legal-lock to prevent future changes to the abortion law.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 9 April 2018.

The information requested refers to the functions of the Tánaiste in his capacity as a public representative and member of the Oireachtas. This Department has no control or authority over records not held in connection with the functions or business of the Department. In that light I am refusing your request on administrative grounds under Section 15(1)(a) -*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 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 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

Frances Kiernan