



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/18/088

02/05/2018

Dear Mr Molony,

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:

“Records which show the names of the nominators and nominees of the 83 individuals nominated in 95 nominations for the Presidential Distinguished Service Awards 2017.”

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 6 April.

I have identified a record containing the information that falls within the scope of your request. I have made a decision to partially release the information contained in this record. Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under section “37(1) Personal Information” of the FOI Act.

The information sought, names of individuals, is personal information as defined by the FOI Act 2014. Under section 37 of the FOI Act 2014, such information should not be released unless there is a public interest in favour of release of the information which outweighs the right of privacy of the individual concerned. In the case of the unsuccessful nominations and the people who nominated them, I do not consider that the public interest in knowing their names outweighs their right to privacy, and so I am withholding this information in accordance with section 37.1 of the FOI Act. However, in the case of the nominators of the successful recipients, I find that there is a public interest in knowing their names, and following consultation with those third parties, I have decided to release their names.

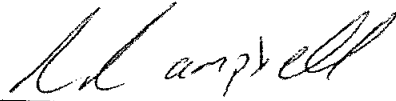
Right of Appeal

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Campbell".

Christopher Campbell
Irish Abroad Unit