



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2018/189

Date: 1st August 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:

A copy of all records relating to the proposal to engage U2 to perform a concert in New York as part of the Irish government's campaign to secure a seat on the UN Security Council from conception to execution to include correspondence between the Department and the band and/or any of their agents/ representatives to include, but not be limited to, any e-mails and attachments therein.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 12th July 2018.

Your request has been taken to refer to discussions which led to an agreement by U2 to invite all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations to a concert scheduled to take place in New York on July 1st 2018.

More than 150 Ambassadors to the United Nations attended the U2 concert at Madison Square Gardens, New York on the evening of July 1st 2018. The event provided representatives of the UN Member States with an opportunity to experience one of Ireland's best known cultural acts immediately prior to the campaign launch, building awareness of our candidature.

The tickets to the concert for the UN Ambassadors were generously provided as a gift by U2. The official launch of Ireland's candidature for election to the United Nations Security Council took place the following day, July 2nd 2018, on the North Lawn of the Headquarters of the United Nations.

I have identified 20 records that fall within the scope of your request and are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 18 of the records. These records have only been edited to remove personal details of individuals. I have part granted 2 records under Section 33 (1).

In relation to records exempted under Section 33 (1) (d), I have determined that the release of these records could be potentially injurious to and adversely affect "the international relations of the State". The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for the management of diplomatic relations between the State and more than 170 countries. The conduct of diplomatic relations is predicated by mutuality of trust regarding the confidentiality of certain communications. Having considered the public interest regarding the potential release of these records in the context of our current and future management of international relations, I am obliged to refuse the request.

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



Sharon Lennon
United Nations Policy