



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/18/299

Date 28 December 2018

Mr Luke Flanagan

Dear Mr Flanagan,

I refer to the request which you have made, dated 30 November 2018, under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

“Any briefings documents prepared for minister in advance of the debate on PESCO held in the Dáil on December 6th and 7th 2017.”

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on the 4th December 2018.

I have identified 2 records that falls within the scope of your request. The records listed are in the schedule attached.

Access to the record concerned is refused on administrative grounds, provided for under Section 15(1) (d) of the 2014 Act, as “the information is already in the public domain”. The Opening and Closing Statements provided to the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade in advance for the Dáil debate on Permanent Structured Cooperation on December 7th is publically available on the Houses of the Oireachtas website at the following link <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2017-12-07/38/?highlight%5B0%5D=permanent>

The Closing Statement was delivered by Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality, Deputy David Stanton.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Swan', is written over a horizontal line.

Erin Swan

Desk Officer

International Security Policy Unit/Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade