



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2014/063

2 September 2014

Mr. Philip Ryan
Irish Independent
27-32 Talbot Street
Dublin 1

Dear Mr. Ryan,

I refer to your request, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and 2003, in which you requested details of all security breaches/complaints lodged with the Department of Foreign Affairs by Embassies based in Ireland since 2011.

As advised in the acknowledgement of 12 August 2014, I am the deciding officer in this case. I have identified 74 (seventy-four) incidents and 318 (three hundred and eighteen) related records that fall within the scope of your request. These records cover communications with Embassies and with An Garda Síochána. The majority of these were minor incidents about which the Department was notified as a matter of course.

After reviewing these records I have made a final decision to refuse access to them, under the terms of Sections 23(1)(a)(ii), 23(1)(a)(iii), 24(1)(c), 24(2)(b), and 26(1)(a) of the Act. A schedule of records is attached.

Section 23(1)(a)(ii) of the Act states that access to a record must be refused if such access could prejudice or impair the enforcement of, compliance with or administration of any law.

Section 23(1)(a)(iii) of the Act states that access to a record must be refused if such access could prejudice or impair the lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures for ensuring the safety of the public and the safety or security of persons and property.

Section 24(1)(c) of the Act states that access to a record may be refused if it could adversely affect the international relations of the State

Section 24(2)(b) of the Act states that the release of a record shall be refused if it contains a communication between a Minister of the Government and a diplomatic mission or consular post in the State or a communication between the Government or a person acting on behalf of another Government.

Section 26(1)(a) of the Act states that the access to a record containing information given in confidence and on the understanding that it would be treated as confidential and, if disclosed,

would be likely to prejudice the giving to the body of further such information from the same person and where it is of importance that further such information should continue be given to the body, shall be refused.

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. A fee applies for an appeal, with the exception of an appeal against the imposition of a fee; the level of this fee has been set at €75. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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,



Ben Poole
Protocol