



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/15/009

Craig Hughes
By email:

13 February 2015

Dear Mr Hughes

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:

"All records – to include e-mails, correspondence, records of phone calls, memos, recordings of meetings etc. – relating to the British intelligence agency Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) between the dates 01/6/13 – 01/01/15."

I have identified 26 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 4 of the records.

Where access to a record, or part of a record, has been refused, the records are exempt from release under the following sections of the FOI Act:

Section 31(1) A head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned—
(c) consists of—(ii) opinions, advice, recommendations, or the results of consultations, considered by—
(I) either House of the Oireachtas or the Chairman or Deputy Chairman or any other member of either such House or a member of the staff of the Houses of the Oireachtas Service for the purposes of the proceedings at a sitting of either such House

Section 33 (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request in relation to a record (and in particular but without prejudice to the generality otherwise of this subsection, to a record to which *subsection (2)* applies) if, in the opinion of the head, access to it could reasonably be expected to affect adversely—
(d) the international relations of the State.

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@dfat.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@dfat.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



Kate Tyrrell
Responding Officer