

Our Ref: FoI/Req/15/076  
Dan MacGuill

22 September 2015

Dear Mr. MacGuill,

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 correspondence held by the Department of Foreign Affairs relating to the December 2012 visit to Ireland of the then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and her entourage. The correspondence should cover the period before (planning, arrangements, concerns), during, and after the visit. Correspondence should include letters, emails, and notes taken during phone conversations, where possible.”

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 31 August 2015.

I have identified 24 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant/part-grant 18 of the records.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under the following sections of the FOI Act:

**Section 37.1** Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).

**Section 33.2 (b)**

(2) This subsection applies to a record that—

(b) contains a communication between a Minister of the Government or his or her Department or Office and a diplomatic mission or consular post in the State or of the State or a communication between the Government or an officer of a Minister of the Government or another person acting on behalf of such a Minister and another government or a person acting on behalf of another government.


**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](mailto: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](mailto: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



Cillian O'Kelly,  
Responding Officer  
OSCE, Council of Europe, UN Co-ordination and Conflict Resolution Unit  
Political Division