



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/17/036

Ellen Coyne,  
The Times,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Bishop's Square,  
Redmond's Hill,  
Dublin 2

Dear Ms Coyne,

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:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I would like to access all of the correspondence between the department and its British counterparts for the last three years on the subject of undercover British police officers working in the Republic.*

*I would also like to access all internal department correspondence on the same matter for the last two years.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 17 February 2017.

I have identified one record that falls within the scope of your request which is listed in the below schedule. After consideration of the record and the relevant section of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I have made the decision to refuse the release of this record.

The refusal to release this record is based upon the exemption in the Act relating to "Security, Defence and International Relations" 33(1)(d). In relation to Section 33 of the Act, my decision has been informed by consideration of the potential for the release of this record to create difficulty in the conduct of relations between this country and another State.

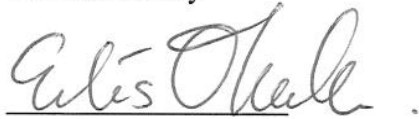
I have carefully considered both the nature and source of the record and am satisfied that the public interest is best served in refusing access to this record.

**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



Eilís O’Keeffe,  
Ireland, UK and Americas Division,  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

SCHEDULE FOI/Req/17/036		
Record Description	Granted/Part-Granted/Refused	Section exempted under:
1. Background note Pitchford Inquiry	Refused	33(1)(d)