



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/16/103

Maeve Sheehan,
Sunday Independent,
27-32 Talbot Street,
Dublin 1.

Dear Ms Sheehan,

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:

“Documents held by the Department and/or the Minister on the impact of Brexit, including risk assessments conducted by or for the Department, and memos or briefing documents for the Minister” and “any correspondence on impact/risks of Brexit received by or issued by the Department and/or the Minister from January 1 2016” to 13 July 2016, the date of your initial request.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 20 July 2016.

I have identified 133 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant six of the records and refuse the rest. 42 records have been excluded on the basis that they are already publicly available elsewhere, and in these instances I have included links to where they can be found.

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

- Section 15(1)(d) applies to records which are already in the public domain, and for these 42 records I have included a link to the documents in question.
- Section 29(1) applies to records which contain “matter relating to the deliberative processes of an FOI body (including opinions, advice, recommendations, and the results of consultations, considered by the body, the head of the body, or a member of the body or of the staff of the body for the purpose of those processes)”.
- Section 30(1)(c) applies to records which if released would “disclose positions taken, or to be taken, or plans, procedures, criteria or instructions used or followed, or to be used or followed, for the purpose of any negotiations carried on or being, or to be, carried on by or on behalf of the Government or an FOI body”.
- Section 33(1)(c) applies to records which if released could adversely affect “matters relating to Northern Ireland”.
- Section 33(1)(d) applies to records which if released could adversely affect “the international relations of the State”.
- Section 42(j) applies to records which are “given by an FOI body to a member of the Government or a Minister of State for use by him or her for the purposes of any

proceedings in either House of the Oireachtas or any committee of either or both of such Houses or any subcommittee of such a committee (including such proceedings in relation to questions put by Members of either such House to members of the Government or Ministers of State (whether answered orally or in writing))”.

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 Oliver