



**Irish Aid**

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

Cormac McQuinn

Teach na hAbhainn  
23-27 Sráid Anraí  
Luimneach

Riverstone House  
23-27 Henry Street  
Limerick

**Re:Fol/Req/2016/173**

Dear Mr. McQuinn

I refer to your request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department as follows:

**The DFA Audit Committee's Annual Report on Irish Aid for 2014 noted that an audit of grants awarded to Misean Cara in 2012 and 2013 was carried out. I am seeking a copy of this report.**

**\* Copies of any other audits of grants to Misean Cara between 2014 and October 26, 2016.**

**\* Copies of any reports drawn up by Irish Aid officials into the work of Misean Cara in 2015 and to date in 2016.**

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

I have identified two records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant one and part grant the second of the records. Where records have been part granted the material has been redacted in accordance with Section 37(1) and Section 36(1b) of the FOI Act.

*Section 37(1) requires me to "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". This requirement is subject to exemptions contained in subsections 37(2) and 37(5).*

*36. (1b) "Subject to subsection (2), a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned contains—*

- (a) trade secrets of a person other than the requester concerned,*
- (b) financial, commercial, scientific or technical or other information whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss or gain to the person to whom the information relates, or could prejudice the competitive position of that person in the conduct of his or her profession or business or otherwise in his or her occupation, or*
- (c) information whose disclosure could prejudice the conduct or outcome of contractual or other negotiations of the person to whom the information relates."*

This record also contains commercial and technical information of the organisations concerned and constitute trade secrets, as outlined in the provisions of Section 36 of the

Freedom of Information Act 2014. The disclosure of the information you have requested could prejudice the competitive position of the organisation in the conduct of its business and could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss to the organisation to which the information relates. I am therefore redacting the record in accordance with the provisions of Section 36 (1b) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014.

Misean Cara (formally known as The Irish Missionary Resource Service) was established in 2004 and is the key funding channel for Irish Government support for the development interventions undertaken by missionary organisations in the developing world. Misean Cara is a membership organisation of 89 members working across approximately 50 countries, the vast majority of which are religious congregations.

Misean Cara provides project grants to missionary congregations for development work in Africa, Asia and South America. The main focus of the Irish Aid funded work is the provision of health and education services. A smaller number of missionary congregations are engaged in human rights, income generation and social justice issues.

### **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@dfa.ie](mailto:foi@dfa.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 staff of this Department.

Yours Sincerely



Oonagh O'Connor

Higher Executive Officer