



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2020/179

9 October 2020

Dear Mr. Mooney,

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 concerning any lobbying by Asia Matters to the Department concerning China or Chinese companies or entities and Taiwan in 2019 and 2020.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 29 September.

I have identified no records that fall within the scope of your request.

In reaching this decision, I reflected upon the definition of “lobbying” as laid out by the Standards in Public Office Commission and, in particular, what constitutes a “relevant matter”. A relevant matter is defined as one which relates to:

- The initiation, development or modification of any public policy or of any public programme;
- The preparation or amendment of any law (including secondary legislation such as statutory instruments and bye-laws);
- The award of any grant, loan or other financial support, contract or other agreement, or of any licence or other authorisation involving public funds.

The Department of Foreign Affairs does not have any records relating to lobbying activities by Asia Matters in regard to the criteria laid out above. The vast majority of correspondence between Asia Matters and this department relates to requests for ministerial or official attendance at public events and general updates/reports of Asia Matters activities.

### **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). A fee applies for an appeal for access to non-personal information; the level of this fee has been set at €30, (€10 for medical card holders). A copy of the medical

card should be provided to avail of the reduced fee. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at [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 the staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely

Chris Green

Deputy Director, Asia Pacific Unit