



Our Ref: FoI/Req/20/156

Date: 29 September 2020

Dear Mr O'Brien,

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:

*“Can I request, under the Freedom of Information Acts, copies of all correspondence with the department on the nature of the recently published travel Green List (in relation to Covid-19), with particular reference to any correspondence from individuals or other entities in relation to which countries should be included on the Green List.”*

Further to our subsequent telephone conversations, it was agreed to have a more targeted scope of inquiry, as follows:

- To focus on correspondence relating to the compilation of the green list. This should include correspondence with particular groups, such as Government departments, the travel or airline industry, and individuals / organisations seeking to make representations on behalf of destinations;
- The timeline for correspondence would be the calendar month of July 2020.

I have identified 22 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. All of the records on the schedule are diplomatic communications. I have made a decision to refuse all 22 of the records under section 33 (2) (b), as their release could adversely affect Ireland's international relations as per section 33 (1) (d) of the Act.

The Department of Foreign Affairs operates in a complex and diverse international environment. A mutuality of confidence exists in the communication between this Department and our interlocutors. This is particularly the case in respect of diplomatic communications. I have considered the possibility and likelihood that the release of these records could result in negative consequences, and prejudice the ability of this Department to effectively discharge its functions and engage with outside interlocutors and stakeholders. To do otherwise would risk compromising the State's capacity to engage with international partners through diplomatic and other channels.



## 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. 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,

Arthur Hendrick  
Consular Directorate