



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21049

Date 09/03/2021

Dear Mr. Naughton

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 communication sent and received, including any documents or attachments, and all minutes of meetings held, including by the Minister himself, in relation to or in which the World Health Organisation' (WHO) Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) initiative is mentioned.

The search should be limited to April 2020 to the present. The search can be limited to Assistant Principal and above level, and should include the Office of the Minister.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 18/02/2021.

I have identified 21 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant seventeen, to part-grant two and to refuse two of these records.

Section 33 – Security, defence and international relations

I have refused one record and part-granted two records under Section 33(3)(c)(ii). This is a mandatory exemption under the legislation and I am obliged to refuse access to records falling under that section. The records contain information communicated in confidence which disclose the position taken by another State. I have also part granted one record under section 33(1)(D). This record contains information that could reasonably be expected to affect adversely the international relations of the State.

Section 42 – Restriction of Act

I have refused one record under Section 42 (H). This is a mandatory exemption under the legislation and I am obliged to refuse access to records falling under that section. The records contain information relating to the President.

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. 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, 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

Evan Cunningham, Economist, Policy Unit