



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs**

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/109

Date: 07/05/21

Dear Valerie 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:

**I am writing to formally request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.**

- 1. I wish to ascertain if an agreement or policy exists within the Department of Foreign Affairs, Passport Department, to report to member states of the European Union if an individual, in receipt of an Irish passport applies online for and is issued with a renewed Irish passport - whilst being subject to a European Arrest Warrant?**
- 2. Is there a requirement on the Department of Foreign Affairs, Passport Office, to inform any member state seeking a person suspected of committing a crime that a request for a passport has been made and issued?**
- 3. Are the personal contact details : mobile phone number / address / email / personal IP or VPN address etc. of the individual seeking to renew their passport shared with the law enforcement agencies of European member state which is seeking the return of an individual wanted on foot of a European Arrest warrant.**
- 4. How many times has the Irish Passport Office forwarded details to European law enforcement agencies about an individual who is wanted on foot of a European Arrest Warrant since 1st January 2018. Dates that information was exchanged and to which European law enforcement agency.**

For the reasons outlined below, I am obliged to refuse your request on administrative grounds under Section 15 (1) (b) of the FOI Act.

Section 15 (1) (b) of the FOI Act states that;

*“A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where — (b) the FOI request does not comply with Section 12 (1) (b)”*

The requirement under Section 12 (1) (b) of the FOI Act is that the request must contain “sufficient particulars in relation to the information concerned to enable the record to be identified”.

The FOI Act provides for a right of access to records held by an FOI body. Requests for information or for answers to questions, as opposed to requests for records, are not valid

requests under the Act, except to the extent that a request for information or for an answer to a question can reasonably be inferred to be a request for a record containing the information or answer sought.

I am happy to discuss your request further with you if you provide a contact phone number.

### **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 01-4082618.

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

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David Ormond  
FOI Section  
Department of Foreign Affairs