



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: FOI/Req/21/190

Date: 06 October 2021

Dear Mr. McDermott,

I refer to the request that you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (the Act) for access to the following records held by this Department:

“...any email correspondence between officials from the department and the charity Sadaka between July and August of this year.”

I have identified five records which fall within the scope of your request. I am part-granting two records and have refused three records. Please find attached a schedule, and copies of the records to which access has been part-granted.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under Sections 33, 35 or 37 of the Act.

Section 33

I have exempted one record from release and part-granted two records under Section 33(3)(c)(i) of the Act.

This is a mandatory exemption which applies to records which contain information communicated in confidence and which could reasonably be expected to adversely affect the international relations of the State.

Section 35

I have exempted two records and I am part-granting two records under Section 35(1)(a) of the Act. This is a mandatory exemption. These records contain information given in confidence on the understanding that it would be treated in confidence. It is my assessment that disclosure of this information would prejudice the provision of such information in the future and that it is important that such information continues to be supplied.

Section 37

Two of the records which have been part-granted and three of the records that have been refused fall under this Section. The exemption relates to personal information and is a mandatory exemption to protect the information of individuals.

I am part-granting two records which fall under Section 37(1) of the Act, relating to personal information. It is a mandatory exemption and protects the privacy (including contact details) of the individuals concerned. While Section 37(1) Personal Information is a mandatory exemption I am still obliged to consider whether the public interest would be best served by releasing the records in full. I have taken into account the benefit to the public to be given access to correspondence in a manner which demonstrates transparency and accountability of the Department. In the main, the information redacted relates to personal contact information and does not affect the substance of the record. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information would provide any additional benefit in this regard. I have weighed this against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private and have found that there is a clear prerogative for this information to remain private.

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, 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 +353 (0) 1 408 2857.

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 from this Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ní Drisceoil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Méabh Ní Drisceoil

Deputy Director, Middle East and North Africa Unit

Department of Foreign Affairs

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