



Our Ref: Fol/Req/2020/071

15/12/2020

Dear Ms. Daly MEP,

I refer to your request, which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

- “- All correspondence held by the Department of Foreign Affairs in regard to a Regional Acceleration of Resolution 1325 meeting held in Dublin in June 2018;
- The invitation list for this meeting;
 - Details of any funding provided by the Irish State toward the costs of hosting this meeting;
 - Details of all Departmental staff who attended the meeting, either as delegates or as facilitators.”

Context of the Regional Acceleration of Resolution 1325 Meeting

The Regional Acceleration of Resolution 1325 commonly known as the RAR was set up to support and learn from women and peace and security initiatives at the regional level. Ireland has been a supporter of the RAR since its inception in March 2016.

The purpose of 2018 workshop, held in conjunction with NATO, was to enhance coordination among participants of the Regional Acceleration of Resolution 1325 through the sharing of experiences and insights related to monitoring and evaluating women, peace, and security objectives.

Experts from EU, NATO, OSCE, UN (Brussels office) UN Women (Brussels Office) and AU were in attendance. The workshop was facilitated by DemocraShe and Inclusive Security. The workshop included a lunchtime seminar at which the Defence Forces National Action Plan on 1325 was outlined.

Release of Records - Summary

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to your request. We were not able to access our financial records due to COVID-19 restrictions, as they are held in hard copy. In addition, due to staff changes within the Department, I have assumed the role of decision-maker for this request.

I have identified 87 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to:

- Grant 21 records;
- Part grant 29 records; and



- Refuse 37 records.

Where access has been partially redacted or refused, the records are exempt from release under the following sections of the FOI Act:

Section 33 – Security, Defence and International Relations

(3) – A head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned-

- (c) contains information communicated in confidence –
 - (ii) from, to, or within an international organisation of states or a subsidiary organ of such an organisation or an institution or body of the European Union, or relates to negotiations between the State and such an organisation, organ or institution or within or in relation to such an organisation, organ or institution or body, or is a record of such a body containing information the disclosure of which is prohibited by the organisation, organ, institution or body

Records redacted or withheld under this Section of the FOI Act consisted of correspondence to or from NATO. NATO does not permit the release of such material.

Section 36 – Commercially Sensitive Information

(1) Subject to subsection (2), a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned contains –

- (a) trade secrets of a person other than the requester concerned,
- (b) financial, commercial, scientific or technical or other information whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss or gain to the person to whom the information relates, or could prejudice the competitive position of that person in the conduct of his or her profession or business or otherwise in his or her occupation, or
- (c) information whose disclosure could prejudice the conduct or outcome of contractual or other negotiations of the person to whom the information relates.

Records redacted or withheld under this Section of the FOI Act are bank account details.

Section 37 – Personal Information

(1) Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would



involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).

Records redacted or withheld under this Section of the FOI Act are personal contact details, passport and visa details and photographs.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, which appears to read 'SDoherty', is written over a horizontal line.

Sarah Doherty
Political Division
Department of Foreign Affairs