



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

Our Ref: FoI/Req/20/006

17th January 2020

Dear Mr Ó Caollaí,

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:

‘Any briefing notes or correspondence provided to the Minister regarding the proposals contained in the Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2019.’

I have identified 1 record that falls within the scope of your request and is listed in the schedule attached. The record is exempt from release under Section 28 (1) (c) as it is a record prepared for the Minister, solely, for consideration.

Section 28 of the Act is concerned with the protection of Cabinet records from disclosure. Cabinet confidentiality is a long established principle and the Irish Constitution provides that the confidentiality of discussions at meetings of the Government shall be respected.

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

Mark Sheridan
Freedom of Information Officer

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade