



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/157

Date: 20/08/21

Dear Cónal Thomas,

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 records relating to the appointment of Katherine Zappone as UN Special Envoy for Freedom of Expression dated between July 2020 and July 2021.**

**This should include any and all correspondence, including any text messages and WhatsApp messages, between Ms Zappone and Minister Coveney regarding same.**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 13 August 2021.

I have made a decision to refuse your request on administrative grounds under Section 15 (1) (f) of the FOI Act which states that;

*“A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where — the FOI body intends to publish the record and such publication is intended to be effected not later than 6 weeks after the receipt of the request by the head,”*

The Department of Foreign Affairs intends to publish all records it holds in relation to the appointment of Katherine Zappone as a Special Envoy on Freedom of Expression, (with the exception of records that are exempt from release under various provisions of the FOI Act), by 8 September 2021. It will also publish a schedule, listing all the records, and, where applicable, giving the reason for redaction or refusal of certain records.

### **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