



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2021/020

Jack Power

Date 03rd February 2021

Dear Mr Power

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:

- **Internal Audit of Embassy Cairo: February 2020**
- **Internal Audit of Embassy Ankara: February 2020**
- **Embassy of Ireland Malawi, Audit of internal controls for Grant Management of Local Government and Rural Development: December 2020**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on January 22nd 2021.

I have identified 3 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant one of the records and part grant two of the records. Where access to listed information has been part granted, the records have been exempted from release by virtue of the following sections of the Act;

Section 32 (1) (b) “A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to endanger the life or safety of any person.”

Section 36 (1) (b), “a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if the record concerned contains

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.”

Under Section 32 (1) (b) of the Act (Deliberations of FOI Bodies), I have considered whether the public interest would be better served by releasing the record in question in terms of the right of the public to have access to information and the need for transparency in decision making processes. Given the nature of the record and the information relating to cash transactions and their timing, I am satisfied that its release could endanger the life or safety of individuals at the Mission.

Records have also been exempted under Section 36 (1) (b) of the act as access to the record concerned is a tender bid. If the price bid was made public, competitors would be able to underbid the company and they could lose contracts/business from the disclosure of the information.

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 (€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, 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,

Mary Convery (Evaluation & Audit Unit)