



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/211

Date: 01/10/2021

Dear Mr. McDermott,

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:

- Copies of any records held by the Minister or his office relating or referring to his mobile phone being hacked or compromised in 2020.
- Copies of any correspondence between the Minister and the National Cyber Security Centre relating to the above.

Searches of any relevant private email addresses should be considered when processing this request.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 15/09/2021.

In relation to part one of your request, I have identified 3 records that fall within its scope . I have made a decision to refuse 3 of the records.

Where access has been refused, 2 of the records are exempt from release under section 33 (2)(b)(i) of the FOI Act which allows for the refusal to release a record that;

“contains a communication between a Minister of the Government or his or her Department or Office and a diplomatic mission or consular post in the State or of the State or a communication between the Government or an officer of a Minister of the Government or another person acting on behalf of such a Minister and another government or a person acting on behalf of another government”

The records in question are communications made in confidence between the Minister and a foreign minister of another state.

1 record is exempt from release under under section 33 (3)(c)(iii) on the grounds specified in relevant subsections.

“Information communicated in confidence (whether generated in the State or elsewhere) in the possession of a public body in relation to planning for, or responses to, threats or incidents in respect of network and information security”.

I have not identified any records that fall within the scope of part two of your request (correspondence between the Minister and the National Cyber Security Centre).

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 01-4082618.

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

Robert Drummond

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