



Our Ref: FOI/Req/2021/063

Date: 29 March, 2020

Dear Mr Coyle,

I refer to the request that you have made under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, for access to the following records held by this Department:

All correspondence between Minister Coveney and Mary Robinson since the start of December 2018;

Any internal reports/memos/briefings relating to Mary Robinson's visit to Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum.

I have identified three records that fall within the scope of your request. These records are listed in the attached schedule. I have made a decision to deny access to your request under section 33 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 (the Act):

Section 33(1)(d): Section 33(1)(d) of the Act concerns the international relations of the State. The Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for managing relations between Ireland and 190 countries, as well as a range of international organisations. A mutuality of confidence exists in the communication between this Department and these bilateral and multilateral interlocutors. Based on the Department's direct knowledge and expertise in international relations, its strongly held position is that the granting of access to these records would adversely affect the State's international relations;

Section 33(2)(b)(ii) concerns communication with a diplomatic mission of the State containing analysis, opinions, advice, recommendations, the results of consultations, or information the release of which could reasonably be expected to affect adversely the international relations of the State. My decision to use this subsection of the Act is informed by my consideration of the likelihood, and likely severity, of the impact on the State's relations, should this record be released;

Section 33(3)(c)(ii): This section concerns records that contain information that has been communicated in confidence to an international organisation. Record 3 is such a record. The disclosure of this record would adversely affect the international relations of the State.



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, or +353 (0) 1 408 2857.

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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