

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/085

4 May 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:

'All memos, briefings and correspondence held by the Department which address the activity of the Chinese Embassy in Ireland's Twitter account during the past 5 days.'

I have identified no records that fall within the scope of your request.

Therefore, I have decided to refuse the request on administrative grounds under section 15 (1) (a) "A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken."

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

Sarah Finn

Desk Officer, Asia Pacific Unit