Department of the Taoiseach

List of non-personal Freedom of Information requests granted

Quarter 3 2020

Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2020/0105	1. Correspondence between Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, his staff, and Minister for Children Katherine Zappone, or her advisers, or Dept of Children & Youth Affairs (D/CYA) officials, on the topic of Scouting Ireland, between 1st May to 18th May 2020. 2. A copy of any briefings sent from D/CYA to the Department of the Taoiseach or to Mr Varadkar on Scouting Ireland, between 1st May to 18th May 2020. 3. A copy of any briefings sent from the Department of the Taoiseach to D/CYA on an statutory inquiry or commission of investigation into historical scouting abuse between 1st May to 18th May 2020.	Part granted	28/07/2020
FOI/2020/0112	All correspondence to Taoiseach Leo Varadkar on the following topic: The coronavirus crisis and the horse racing industry. The correspondence could include but is not limited to items to/from Horse Racing Ireland, horse trainers and owners, race courses, politicians and the betting industry. The time period can be limited to March 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020.	Part granted	28/07/2020
FOI/2020/0120	Any memos prepared for attention of the Taoiseach relating to communication strategy for handling the COVID-19 pandemic. Correspondence between civil servants relating to the creation of aforementioned memos. Minutes and agendas of any meetings with the Taoiseach relating to the communication strategy for handling the COVID-19 pandemic. Correspondence with the Taoiseach relating to the communication strategy for handling the COVID-19 pandemic.	Part granted	07/07/2020
FOI/2020/0121	All correspondence between the Taoiseach's office and private individuals, businesses, State agencies, government figures and any other stakeholders the regarding: The cancellation/postponement of horse racing events due to Covid-19 · The resuming of horse racing as part of the roadmap to lift Covid-19 restrictions.	Part granted	28/07/2020
FOI/2020/0122	Copies of the most recent three staff surveys of the Dept of the Taoiseach and reports on the results.	Part granted	07/07/2020
FOI/2020/0124	1. Any correspondence, reports, files, submissions, minutes of meetings or conversations, that were created, received or exchanged by the Taoiseach or any of his officials above the grade of principal officer and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen or any of her officials above the civil service grade of AD 14 on the topic of: (a) Brexit, (b) the European Green Deal or (c) the Covid-19 pandemic. 2. Any correspondence, reports, files, submissions, minutes of meetings or conversations, that were created, received or exchanged by the Taoiseach or any his officials above the grade of principal officer and European Council President Charles Michel or any of his officials above the civil service grade of AD 14 on the topic of: (a) Brexit, (b) the European Green Deal or (c) the Covid-19 pandemic. The time period I am interested in is from November 1, 2019 to June 9, 2020.	Granted	09/07/2020

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2020/0129	All correspondence between the Department of Public Expenditure secretary general Robert Watt and the secretaries general of the Departments of the Taoiseach, Health, Social Protection and Business regarding Covid-19 and the government response between the period 01 March 2020 and 11 June 2020.	Part granted	31/07/2020
FOI/2020/0136	1. Any record, including but not limited to minutes, of any meeting held or communication between the Taoiseach and/or his officials, and any member or representative of the Licensed Vintners Association (the "LVA") and/or the Vintners' Federation of Ireland (the "VFI") from 1 February 2020 to present. 2. Any record prepared in advance of, or subsequent to, a meeting referred to at item 1above for the purposes of preparing for such a meeting, briefing a participant at such a meeting, analysing the outcome of such a meeting, or otherwise referable to such a meeting. 3. Any record, including but not limited to minutes, of any meeting held or communication between the Taoiseach and/or his officials, and any member of the Oireachtas, or a member of their staff or their representative, from 1 February 2020 to present relating to and/or referring to both Covid-19 or and/or the coronavirus, as well as the actual or potential closure of public houses. 4. Any record prepared in advance of, or subsequent to a meeting referred to at item 3 above for the purposes of preparing for such a meeting, briefing a participant at such a meeting, analysing the outcome of such a meeting, or otherwise referable to such a meeting. 5. Any record considering, analysing, assessing or recommending the closure of public houses related to the Covid-19 Pandemic.	Part granted	29/07/2020
FOI/2020/0137	The release of correspondence sent by members of the public to the Taoiseach between March and May regarding the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. I am conscious that this may be too broad a request, so am satisfied to receive a sample of 50 pieces of correspondence should that be the case.	Part granted	17/07/2020
FOI/2020/0138	All correspondence sent and received between the Taoiseach and the Secretary General of the Department of the Taoiseach, and either Facebook, Apple, or Google, between 1st March and 22nd June 2020.	Part granted	20/07/2020
FOI/2020/0141	The release of any email correspondence between the Taoiseach (or his secretary) and officials regarding his speeches/addresses to the nation about Covid-19. I am specifically looking for emails containing notes, comments, or other suggestions to speeches delivered by the Taoiseach on 12 March, 17 March, 27 March, 1 May, 15 May, 5 June and 19 June. The 'officials' referred to include the Taoiseach's speechwriter Patrick Geoghegan, his chief of staff Brian Murphy, the government press secretary and the Taoiseach's advisers.	Part granted	23/07/2020
FOI/2020/0142	Copies of any correspondence received by the department seeking a Taoiseach's nomination to the Seanad. This request to cover the period 1 January 2020 to date of receipt of the request.	Part granted	04/08/2020

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2020/0144	Copies of records, in the Department of an Taoiseach consisting of communications between Fine Gael's LGBT Committee and the Taoiseach and Office of Taoiseach in 2018, 2019 and in 2020 to today's date.	Part granted	27/07/2020
FOI/2020/0148	All correspondence received by the Taoiseach and/or the Taoiseach's office relating to the New Children's Hospital from January 1 2020 to date. All correspondence between Professor Brendan Drumm and the Taoiseach from January 1 2019 to date.	Part granted	28/08/2020
FOI/2020/0150	I am now seeking records under the FOI act for all records in the Department of An Taoiseach relating to Taoiseach Varadkar's statement, in 2018, pledging to keep politics out of decisions on the health care of transgender people in Ireland and to" follow the best most up to date advice" and any records relating to any discussions in the department, subsequent to the Taoiseach's statement, dealing with and or relating to the health care of transgender people. My FOI is exclusively for records within the Department of An Taoiseach and for your convenience I am showing a reference to the aforementioned Times article: https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/varadkar-vows-to-keep-politics-out-of-trans-decisions-5qm9gsscx	Part granted	21/09/2020
FOI/2020/0151	A copy of all correspondence/documents relating to ministerial appointments from June 26, 2020, to date.	Granted	31/07/2020
FOI/2020/0152	Copies of any correspondence between your department and the OPW with regard to the use of the Steward's Lodge in 2020. Copies of any invoices/receipts relating to payment for use of the Steward's Lodge in 2020. Copies of any claims for costs relating to payment for use of the Steward's Lodge in 2020.	Part granted	31/07/2020
FOI/2020/0155	A spreadsheet/database/record of all costs incurred by your Department incurred as part of Ireland's bid to secure a seat on the UN Security Council. This record to include a line by line account of expenditure associated with the bid.	Granted	04/08/2020
FOI/2020/0157	Copies of any emails, letters and/or meeting minutes with Ibec CEO Danny McCoy and internal correspondence in relation to this exchange with Ibec as referenced in this return: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/58979/ibec Copies of any emails, letters and/or meeting minutes with Ibec CEO Danny McCoy and internal correspondence in relation to this exchange with Ibec as referenced in this return: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/58019/ibec Copies of any emails, letters and/or meeting minutes with Ibec CEO Danny McCoy and internal correspondence in relation to this exchange with Ibec as referenced in this return: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/56613/ibec In all cases of requests for correspondence and meetings, please also include attached documents and/or documents referenced that are not already publicly available. In all cases for correspondence, please also note that this request excludes any correspondence in relation to the organisation of any meetings.	Part granted	30/07/2020

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2020/0159	Copies of all receipts/invoices related to planned visit by the Taoiseach and any other members of his staff or officials from his Department to Davos in January 2020. Copies of any correspondence received or sent relating to the arrangement of travel for the Taoiseach and delegation to Davos.	Part granted	07/08/2020
FOI/2020/0160	Copies of all correspondence between the Department of Finance, the Department of Taoiseach and the board (NPHDB) of the new children's hospital. This should span from January 2020 to date.	Part granted	30/09/2020
FOI/2020/0161	A copy of all communications received by the Taoiseach (or the department) relating to Minister Barry Cowen's driving ban - or any related topics - since June 27, 2020, to present. A copy of all communications sent by the Taoiseach, his officials, or the department, relating to Minister Barry Cowen's driving ban - or any related topics - since June 27, 2020, to present.	Part granted	11/08/2020
FOI/2020/0162	I would like to seek the following information. The period to which my request refers to is 6 May 2016 to 31 May 2017. Any correspondence, briefings, notes, reports, agendas, minutes or other records relating to the preliminary consultations held with "relevant State agencies" on the feasibility of introducing a Public Defender system in Ireland, referred to in the Programme for Government Annual Report 2017, published by the Department of An Taoiseach. Any correspondence, briefings, notes, reports, agendas, minutes or other records relating to the review of Public Defender systems in other jurisdictions, referred to on page 55 of the Programme for Government Annual Report 2017. Any reports or records outlining the potential costs of introducing a Public Defender system in Ireland.	Granted	11/08/2020
FOI/2020/0166	All correspondence exchanged between (a) google/YouTube/Alphabet, (b) Facebook/Whatsapp/Instagram, (c) Apple, (d) LinkedIn, (e) Microsoft, (f) Amazon and (g) Intel with the Taoiseach or anyone above the grade of Principal Officer in the Department of Taoiseach. The correspondence should include all correspondence or communication, sent by email, text message, Whatsapp, letter or any other format, between January 1, 2020 to date of the receipt of the request.	Part granted	20/08/2020

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2020/0167	All correspondence to the Taoiseach from TDs and Senators regarding the Covid-19 restrictions from the period 01 May 2020 to the present day.	Part granted	14/08/2020
FOI/2020/0169	I request the briefing document for Taoiseach Micheál Martin, and other ministers in his department, files usually given to a minister informing them of what will be in their department, what roles or responsibilities they have and what issues lie ahead under a new government. This request is made under the Freedom of Information legislation and covers the period since when the government was formed.	Granted	14/08/2020
FOI/2020/0170	Copies of correspondence to/from An Taoiseach Micheál Martin and the following politicians: - Tánaiste Leo Varadkar - Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney - Climate Action Minister Eamon Ryan - Media Minister Catherine Martin - Agriculture Minister Dara Calleary - Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald TD - Labour leader Alan Kelly TD - Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy - Social Democrats co-leader Róisín Shortall The timeframe for the correspondence can be limited to the period June 27, 2020 to July 22 2020. I am also seeking copies of any documents attached to correspondence to/from the politicians listed.	Part granted	26/08/2020
FOI/2020/0173	Copies of correspondence to/from An Taoiseach Micheál Martin and the following organisations: Google Apple Facebook Twitter Microsoft Amazon Intel Web Summit The timeframe for the correspondence can be limited to the period June 27, 2020 to July 22 2020. I am also seeking copies of any documents attached to correspondence.	Granted	20/08/2020
FOI/2020/0174	A datadump of the financial management system that is used for recording costs associated with the IBRC Commission of Investigation for the calendar year 2019 and thus far in 2020. Copies of any correspondence between the Commission and the Department of the Taoiseach with regard to running costs for the commission of investigation. This part of the request to cover the period 1 January 2019 to date of receipt of the request. A record of the most up to date total cost for the commission's work thus far. When considering all parts of this request, I would ask that you pay close attention to Section 42(e)(ii)(B) of the FOI Act.	Part granted	10/09/2020

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2020/0177	Details of any purchases of computer equipment, mobile equipment, tablets, laptops, any mobile or computer accessories, any electrical equipment or appliances on behalf of An Taoiseach or any minister of state at your Department in period between 1 May 2020 and the current date. Copies of any requests for additional office space, furniture, decoration, or paintings by An Taoiseach or a minister of state at your Department in period as outlined above. Copies of the response that was issued in any such instance. Copies of any receipts or invoices associated with the above.	Granted	24/08/2020
FOI/2020/0180	Copies of all external correspondence with the department on the proposed establishment of the Shared Island Unit. Can I also request copies of any proposals or discussion within government on the nature, structure or role of the Shared Island Unit	Part granted	25/09/2020
FOI/2020/0182	Any documents, letters, emails or correspondence from the then-Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, or his office, regarding the proposed White Water Rafting Facility in George's Dock, Dublin since December 2019 until he stepped down as caretaker Taoiseach in June 2020.	Granted	27/08/2020
FOI/2020/0183	Copies of all requests for use of the Ministerial Air Transport Service in the period 1 February 2020 to date of receipt of this request. This request to include a copy of the request, a copy of the response, and any to-and-fro communications regarding the request.	Granted	04/09/2020
FOI/2020/0184	Any correspondence between Paul Kelly, CEO of Fáilte Ireland, and the department in relation to the coronavirus pandemic	Part granted	02/09/2020
FOI/2020/0185	A copy of the minutes of a meeting between Donall O'Keeffe, LVA CEO and Taoiseach Martin, Senator Malcolm Byrne and others. For reference: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/60402/licensed-vintners-association	Granted	02/09/2020
FOI/2020/0187	Any reference to 'Kildare Chilling Co' or 'Kildare Chilling Company' in emails sent and received by an Taoiseach between August 1 and August 10, 2020.	Part granted	09/09/2020
FOI/2020/0189	All records in connection with the following emails, submission and letter (including those related to follow up departmental actions and/or correspondence directly with the IFA): https://www.lobbying.ie/return/58425/the-irish-farmers-association---ifa In all cases of requests for correspondence and meetings, please also INCLUDE attached documents and/or documents referenced that are not already publicly available. In all the above, please EXCLUDE all correspondence in relation to the setting up or organising of any physical or virtual meetings.	Granted	02/09/2020

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2020/0193	A copy of any correspondences between the Minister/Department and the five meat processing companies listed below in relation to Covid-19 from January 1, 2020, to date. A copy of all dates, minutes and agendas from any meetings held between the Minister/Department and the five meat processing companies listed below in relation to Covid-19 from January 1, 2020, to date. Any internal briefings documents, advisory papers, policy documents, memos, notes, or explanatory documents on meat processing plants in relation to Covid-19 from January 1, 2020, to date. Companies: Dawn Meats Group, Kepak Group, ABP Food Group, Liffey Meats, Rosderra Irish Meats. When conducting your search and retrieval please consider official information held on non-official systems, emails accounts and devices. For example, WhatsApp groups etc.	Part granted	21/09/2020
FOI/2020/0194	Copies of any internal email correspondence between officials the department's press office, and external correspondence with officials at the Department of Health sent yesterday (19 August), concerning press statements issued clarifying Covid-19 measures introduced this week with respect to the cultural sector.	Granted	17/09/2020
FOI/2020/0195	A copy of the Tánaiste's diary for the period 27th of June up to and including date of receipt of the request.	Part granted	22/09/2020
FOI/2020/0197	Copies of all correspondence/representations received by the Department relating to the golfing event in Clifden that resulted in the resignation of Dara Calleary and Phil Hogan.	Part granted	28/09/2020
FOI/2020/0200	All correspondence received by the Taoiseach Micheál Martin in relation to the Oireachtas Golf Society event in Clifden Co. Galway. I wish for my request to cover the period from 1/6/2020 – 31/8/2020. I will accept a random sample of 50 pieces of correspondence	Part granted	29/09/2020
FOI/2020/0202	Any correspondence / lobbying regarding Phil Hogan's role as European Commissioner for Trade received by the Taoiseach's office or Department since August 21. Please include any responses by the Taoiseach or officials. Please include all correspondence, including letters, emails, texts or WhatsApp messages.	Part granted	29/09/2020
FOI/2020/0203	The number of emails sent through by members of the public to Taoiseach, Micheál Martin and the Dept of the Taoiseach on each of these dates of August 20, 21st 22nd, 23rd and 24th concerning the Oireachtas Golf Society outing at Clifden. The total amount of emails received by the Dept of the Taoiseach concerning the issue. Copies of the first hundred emails received by the Dept of the Taoiseach.	Part granted	30/09/2020
FOI/2020/0204	1. All documents relating to any discussion or consideration of whether public houses and bars should close due to Covid-19 excluding documents from members of the public. 2. All documents relating to and/or detailing the reasons for the decision by the Department of the Taoiseach to close public houses and bars on 15 March 2020.	Granted	25/09/2020

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Quarter 3 2020

Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2020/0206	Copies of any invitations to events sent by email or by post to the office of the Taoiseach and junior minister(s) at the department since their appointment in June. I am also seeking the release of any correspondence sent in response to these invitations, either by the Taoiseach/minister(s) themselves or their secretaries.	Part granted	28/09/2020
FOI/2020/0207	1. All correspondence to and from the offices of the Taoiseach and Ministers based in the Department regarding the Oireachtas Golf Society from the period 01 March 2020 to 18 August 2020 2. All correspondence to and from the offices of the Taoiseach and Ministers based in the Department regarding the Oireachtas Golf Society from the period 19 August 2020 to the present day. For this element I am happy to accept a random sample of the correspondence received.	Part granted	28/09/2020