Department of the Taoiseach

List of non-personal Freedom of Information requests granted

Quarter 1 2021

Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2021/0001	Copies of any cabinet records relating to proposals for universal health insurance. This request to cover the period 1 Jan 2015 to 31 Dec 2015.	Part granted	09/02/2021
FOI/2021/0002	Copies of the minutes of all meetings of the following groups: - The Covid-19 Oversight Group chaired by the secretary of the Government. - The Senior officials' groupings and sub-groups convened by the Department of the Taoiseach to drive implementation of the 'Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with Covid-19'. The time period can be limited to December 1, 2020 to January 4, 2020.	Granted	01/03/2021
FOI/2021/0003	Copies of all correspondence to/from Taoiseach Micheál Martin and the representatives of the following companies between September 21, 2020 and January 5, 2021: Apple, Intel, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat, Dell. The records should include copies of any documents attached or enclosed with the correspondence.	Part granted	02/02/2021
FOI/2021/0004	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 - 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 July 23 2020 to January 5, 2021. I am also seeking copies of any documents attached to correspondence to/from the politicians listed.	Part granted	08/02/2021
FOI/2021/0006	Copies of all records held referring or relating to the appointment of the following person to the Future of Media Commission: Stephen McNamara.	Part granted	12/02/2021
FOI/2021/0007	Copies of all correspondence received from BMW Group Ireland or Kevin Davidson, MD at BMW Group Ireland in relation to VRT - and any responses to same. The timeframe of the request should cover the period of September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	Part granted	03/02/2021

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2021/0010	Decisions in respect of The Irish Coursing Club having regard to Statutory Instruments Numbered 560, 695 and 701 of 2020: **A)** A copy of all documents held by the Department or ascertainable / procurable by the Department in accordance with law, in respect of the inclusion of the Irish Coursing Club, and its sport of coursing, as being a sport permitted to operate pursuant to the Health Act 1947 (as amended) according to Statutory Instrument No. 560/2020, including communications with other Departments/Ministers/Ministers of State in respect of the foregoing, and also including e-mails/communications to and from An Taoiseach and An Taoiseach's private office and others, to include the personal (non-departmental) email addresses of An Taoiseach, and text messages/WhatsApp messages, and any other forms of personal communications emanating from An Taoiseach's official phone and communication devices and/or any other phones or communication devices An Taoiseach uses/has used for Departmental/Governmental business, such as the within business, during the relevant time period. **B)** A copy of all documents held by the Department or ascertainable / procurable by the Department in accordance with law, in respect of the delisting of the Irish Coursing Club, and its sport of coursing, as being a sport permitted to operate pursuant to the Health Act 1947 (as amended) according to Statutory Instrument No. 695/2020, including communications with other Departments/Ministers/Ministers of State in respect of the foregoing, and also including e-mails/communications to and from An Taoiseach and An Taoiseach's private office and others, to include the personal (non-departmental) email addresses of the An Taoiseach, and text messages/WhatsApp messages, and any other forms of personal communications emanating from An Taoiseach's official phone and communication devices and/or any other phones or communication devices An Taoiseach uses/has used for Departmental/Governmental business, such as the within business, during the relevant time period. **C)** A copy of all documents held by the Department or ascertainable / procurable by the Department in accordance with law, in respect of the continued delisting of the Irish Coursing Club, and its sport of coursing, as being a sport permitted to operate pursuant to the Health Act 1947 (as amended) according to Statutory Instrument No. 701/2020, including communications with other Departments/Ministers/Ministers of State in respect of the foregoing, and also including e-mails/communications to and from An Taoiseach and An Taoiseach's private office and others, to include the personal (non-departmental) email addresses of An Taoiseach, and text messages/WhatsApp messages, and any other forms of personal communications emanating from An Taoiseach's official phone and communication devices and/or any other phones or communication devices An Taoiseach uses/has used for Departmental/Governmental business, such as the within business, during the relevant time period. **D)** A copy of all documents held by the Department or ascertainable / procurable by the Department in accordance with law, as described in respect of categories (a), (b) and (c) above (i.e. in respect of the Irish Coursing Club and S.I. Nos. 560, 695 and 701 and its treatment in each of the foregoing S.I.s), to and from the civil servants and such non-established civil servants working in (or who worked, at the relevant times in) the Office of the Green Party Leader (including members of the policy and programme implementation unit) as said Office is so described at p. 124 of the "Programme for Government : Our Shared Future" and others (including Ministers and Ministers of State) to include communications sent from and to the personal (non-departmental) email addresses of such persons, and text messages/WhatsApp messages, and any other forms of personal communications emanating from such persons' official phone and communication devices and/or any other phones or communication devices such persons' use/have used for Departmental/Governmental business, such as the within business, during the relevant time period.	Part granted	05/03/2021

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2021/0012	I am requesting the release of correspondence sent to the office of An Taoiseach by Bishop Kevin Doran or the Catholic Diocese of Elphin between September 2020 and December 2020 regarding Covid-19 restrictions (as referenced on the Lobbying Register).	Part granted	08/02/2021
FOI/2021/0013	All correspondence between the office of Martin Fraser and Minister for Children Roderic O'Gorman since 1 January regarding the release of and leaks relating to the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation report. I am also seeking the release of any correspondence between the Minister for Children and the office of the Taoiseach regarding the same. I am further requesting the release of any correspondence between media organisations and the office of the Taoiseach or GIS regarding comments published in the Sunday Independent on 10 January about the report.	Part granted	10/02/2021
FOI/2021/0014	All correspondence sent between Huawei and the Department (Principal Officer Level and above) between 01 September 2020 to present date. Minutes from meetings between Huawei and the Department (Principal Officer Level and above) between 01 September 2020 to present date All internal departmental correspondence (between staff at Principal Officer Level and above) related to Huawei between 01 September 2020 to present date	Part granted	10/02/2021
FOI/2021/0015	Any communications sent to the Taoiseach by Gibney Communications between 1 Sep and 31 Dec last regarding Huawei's role and investment in Ireland (as referenced on the Lobbying Register here).	Part granted	10/02/2021
FOI/2021/0016	A copy of all audits completed by the internal audit division in 2020.	Granted	12/02/2021
FOI/2021/0018	1 - any correspondence, briefing notes, research or analysis exchanged internally or externally by the Department of Taoiseach - at, or above, the rank of principal officer, including the Taoiseach or ministers of state - regarding the implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation deal. 2 - the minutes of any meetings held internally or with external parties regarding the implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation deal, as well as any correspondence or briefing notes prepared in anticipation of, or in the aftermath of, such meetings. Such meetings would involve at least one department official at the rank of principal officer or above, or ministers or ministers of state. The time period I am interested in is from December 24, 2020 to January 18, 2021.	Part granted	17/02/2021
FOI/2021/0019	All letters, emails, MS Teams messages, briefings materials, etc in relation to the issue of vaccine passports.	Part granted	16/02/2021
FOI/2021/0020	1. Number of engineering staff in your organisation who were paid or reimbursed either in part or full their annual membership fees for Engineers Ireland for the years 2018 and 2019. 2. A list of all and any other professional subscriptions or membership fees (broken down by name of institution, and staff grade and number of each separately) either paid or reimbursed, party or fully, during 2018 and 2019.	Part granted	16/02/2021
FOI/2021/0021	Email sent to the Taoiseach by Huawei related to the company's investment in Ireland, as referenced here https://www.lobbying.ie/return/65849/gibney-communications	Part granted	16/02/2021

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2021/0022	All correspondence sent to the office of the Taoiseach from 13 January from survivors of mother and baby homes.	Part granted	09/02/2021
FOI/2021/0026	Any correspondence sent to An Taoiseach by or on behalf of Pfizer between 1 September and 31 December last. I am also requesting minutes of any meetings or meeting notes with representatives of Pfizer during the same dates. My request covers correspondence and meetings referred to in entries on the Lobbying Register here and here.	Part granted	24/02/2021
FOI/2021/0027	Any records related to the meeting between Apple and the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Brian Murphy documented in the following lobbying return: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/67393/apple-distribution-international-ltd Please include any minutes of the meeting(s), correspondence, briefings etc.	Part granted	23/02/2021
FOI/2021/0028	Copies of the minutes of all meetings of the following groups: - The Covid-19 Oversight Group chaired by the secretary of the Government. - The Senior officials' groupings and sub-groups convened by the Department of the Taoiseach to drive implementation of the 'Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with Covid-19'. The time period can be limited to December 1 2020 to January 25 2021.	Granted	23/03/2021
FOI/2021/0029	Any correspondence sent to Philip O'Callaghan by or on behalf of Google between 1 September and 31 December last regarding Google's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the regulation of digital services. I am also requesting minutes of any meetings or meeting notes during meetings between Mr O'Callaghan and representatives of Google during the same dates. My request covers correspondence and meetings referred to in entries on the Lobbying Register here.	Part granted	22/02/2021
FOI/2021/0031	1. Any records held by the Department of the Taoiseach which indicate the spend by the Irish government on any Covid-19-related advertising since February 2020. 2. Any records held by the Department of the Taoiseach which indicate the breakdown of such an ad spend into the different media categories, e.g. regional radio, national radio, regional newspapers, national newspapers, television, etc. 3. Any records held by the Department of the Taoiseach which indicate the spend by the Irish Government on any Covid-19-related advertising on each or any of the following news outlets since February 2020: Western People (Mayo), Connaught Telegraph, MidWest Radio, Mayo News 4. Any records held by the Department of the Taoiseach which provide information on the following: any Covid-related financial support (other than advertising) given by the Irish Government to newspapers in Ireland since February 2020. 5. Any records held by the Department of the Taoiseach which provide information on the following: any Covid-related financial support (other than advertising) given by the Irish Government to each or any of the following news outlets since February 2020: Western People (Mayo), Connaught Telegraph, MidWest Radio, Mayo News	Part granted	25/02/2021
FOI/2021/0032	All records of correspondence and meetings in from the 22nd of November (Date of my last FOI) to the date this request is received, between this department and relevant counterparts in both the Northern Ireland Executive and/or the British Government related to: 1. The coordination of response to the Covid19 pandemic between the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland. 2. The adoption of an aligned Covid19 strategy between the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland. 3. Specifically, the adoption of an aligned "Zero Covid19" strategy between the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.	Part granted	22/03/2021

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2021/0035	The minutes of all meetings held by the following working groups working either fully or partly within your department; (a) the National Risk Assessment Steering Group (b) the Implementation Group on Policing Reform (c) the Sub-group of the Implementation Group on Policing reform (IGPR) on Multi-Disciplinary Approaches (d) High Level Steering Board (e) North East Inner City Oversight Group (f) Digital Strategy Interdepartmental Group (g) Innovation District Advisory Group Any correspondence exchanged externally or internally by ministers or departmental officials in preparation for such meetings or exchanged in the aftermath of such meetings. The timescale I am interested in is from July 27, 2020 to January 25, 2021	Part granted	29/03/2021
FOI/2021/0036	Any correspondence sent to the Taoiseach's office by or on behalf of the Irish Road Haulage Association between 1 September and 31 December last in relation to Operation Fanacht. My request covers correspondence referred to in entries on the Lobbying Register here	Part granted	19/02/2021
FOI/2021/0037	Any correspondence sent to Chief of Staff Brian Murphy and/or Philip O'Callaghan between 1 September and 31 December last regarding Facebook's seeking of Government's support to establish interim and long-term solutions for EU-US data transfers. I am also requesting minutes of any meetings or meeting notes during meetings between Mr Murphy, Mr O'Callaghan and representatives of Facebook during the same dates regarding the same. My request covers correspondence and meetings referred to in entries on the Lobbying Register here	Part granted	22/02/2021
FOI/2021/0038	All reports relating to Covid-19 supplied to the Covid-19 oversight group by EY consultants from September 22, 2020 to date. Correspondence between EY and any/all members of the Covid-19 oversight group from September 22, 2020 to date. Minutes of Covid-19 oversight group meetings from September 22 to date.	Granted	24/03/2021
FOI/2021/0039	All correspondence, including emails and any attachments, between Martin Fraser, Secretary General of the Taoiseach's office and Dr Tony Holohan, chief medical officer, between November 1 2020 to date.	Part granted	23/02/2021
FOI/2021/0040	Any minutes / memos / briefings / correspondence regarding the meeting between Pat McDonagh of Supermac's and An Taoiseach Micheál Martin during 2020.	Part granted	24/02/2021
FOI/2021/0041	Correspondence between Golf Ireland National Governing Body and Deirdre Gillane during 2020 and to date in 2021 in relation to Covid-19 and opening.	Granted	23/02/2021
FOI/2021/0042	Any briefings / memos / minutes or correspondence relating to the meeting between An Taoiseach and members of RTE that took place on September 9, 2020. Details of the meeting are recorded here on the lobbying register: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/67716/raidi%C3%B3--teilif%C3%ADs-%C3%A9ireann	Part granted	23/02/2021

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Ref No	**Description**	**Decision**	**Date Released**
FOI/2021/0044	Records on the amount of money the Department of Taoiseach/Government has spent on commercial advertising from January 2020 to date. Could you include a break-down of where this money was spent e.g print, social media, radio, television etc.	Part granted	25/02/2021
FOI/2021/0046	Any memos prepared for the Taoiseach about 'Zero Covid', as well as any emails sent from 1 December to the present date from the Taoiseach to officials in the Department of An Taoiseach or other Ministers about 'Zero Covid'.	Part granted	26/03/2021
FOI/2021/0047	Copies of any records held referring or relating to the advance release of a copy of the report of the Mother & Baby Home Commission to various media outlets in advance of its formal publication. This request to cover the period 1 January 2020 to date of receipt of the request. Searches of any mobile phones, relevant private email addresses and/or messaging services should be considered when processing this request.	Part granted	15/03/2021
FOI/2021/0048	1 - all external submissions regarding the Shared Island initiative to the "Shared Island Unit" 2 - the minutes of any meetings held internally in the unit or with external parties 3 - any substantive correspondence between the unit and officials from other government departments at the level of Taoiseach, Minister or officials at, or above, principal officer level regarding the Shared Island unit." The timeframe for this request is from 1st December 2020 to 25th January 2021	Part granted	01/03/2021
FOI/2021/0049	Correspondence between Dídean Dochas Éireann Teoranta Ltd, and Taoiseach Micheál Martin, between 1st September 2021 and 27th January 2021. For reference some of the correspondence is mentioned in this lobbying return: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/68637/didean	Part granted	15/02/2021
FOI/2021/0050	Copies of any records held referring or relating to a Rolex watch that was gifted to the Ceann Comhairle and subsequently handed over to the Department of the Taoiseach. This request to cover the period 1 December 2019 to date of receipt of the request.	Part granted	25/02/2021
FOI/2021/0052	All minutes, memos and agendas from meetings of the Covid-19 oversight group, chaired by Martin Fraser, and reports, other outputs of the group as well, since it was established to date	Granted	29/03/2021
FOI/2021/0056	All email correspondence sent to and from the following officials at the department on 29 and 30 January the Northern Ireland protocol: the Taoiseach; the Taoiseach's private secretary; Deirdre Gillane; Pat McParland; Kevin Dillon; Gráinne Ward; Diarmuid Lynch. I am also seeking replies and subsequent replies to emails regarding the Northern Ireland protocol sent to these officials on those dates (so that full email threads are included). Separately, I am also requesting the release of a call log or a schedule of calls made or received by the Taoiseach (including times and the names of callers/recipients) on 29 January.	Part granted	02/03/2021

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Ref No	**Description**	**Decision**	**Date Released**
FOI/2021/0058	Any and all representations made to the Department or Minister on behalf of or by any person concerning the proposed merger of two schools in West Cavan- St Bricins in Belturbet and St Mogues in Bawnboy. Details of any meeting, minutes, memos, or records of phone calls taken by or engaged in with by officials including the Minister with any person concerning the proposed merger of two schools in West Cavan- St Bricins in Belturbet and St Mogues in Bawnboy.	Part granted	01/03/2021
FOI/2021/0060	A copy of all documents, submissions, memos, minutes, briefing documents, and any subsequent correspondence and/or internal departmental communications, related to the following lobbying return: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/67393/apple-distribution-international-ltd	Part granted	23/02/2021
FOI/2021/0061	A copy of all documents, submissions, memos, minutes, briefing documents, and any subsequent correspondence and/or internal departmental communications, related to the following lobbying return: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/68865/google-ireland-limited	Part granted	01/03/2021
FOI/2021/0063	My request refers to lobbying activity by Google recently posted on Lobbying.ie: https://www.lobbying.ie/return/68865/google-ireland-limited I would kindly like to ask for meeting minutes, e-mail exchanges and other records relating to the lobbying activity.	Part granted	01/03/2021
FOI/2021/0066	Any correspondence (dated between 10th and 31st January 2021) received by the Taoiseach from persons who identified themselves as survivors of Mother and Baby Homes,	Part granted	16/03/2021
FOI/2021/0067	A copy of any correspondence between Martin Fraser and Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, since March 2020.	Part granted	10/03/2021
FOI/2021/0068	The agenda of official activities for the then Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, between the period of March 2nd and March 8th, inclusive.	Part granted	10/03/2020
FOI/2021/0069	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 - 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 January 6, 2021 to February 11, 2021. I am also seeking copies of any documents attached to correspondence to/from the politicians listed.	Part granted	11/03/2021

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Ref No	Description	Decision	Date Released
FOI/2021/0070	I read an article on the Irish Examiner in which Elizabeth Canavan, assistant secretary general at the Department of Taoiseach was quoted as saying "over half of the passengers arriving into the country are Irish residents, and two-thirds of those are returning from holidays." Of the non-Irish residents who were arriving into the country in January 2021, how many are holiday makers? How many non-residents are travelling for non-essential purposes? How many ferry passengers arriving into the country are non-residents on holiday?	Granted	22/03/2021
FOI/2021/0071	Copies of all representations made to the Taoiseach on the topic of Brexit. The representations can be limited to those sent by: Politicians, Businesses, Non-governmental organisations, Unions, Farming lobby groups, Tourism lobby groups, Business lobby groups. The correspondence can be limited to the period December 2, 2020 to February 11, 2021. The records should include copies of any documents attached or enclosed with the correspondence.	Granted	23/03/2021
FOI/2021/0072	I am requesting a reissue of FOI/2020/0002 Copies of all correspondence from Fine Gael TD Dara Murphy to the Taoiseach's Office since May 2017. Please include all responses to Mr Murphy from the Taoiseach's Office in the same period. Please include correspondence to and from the Taoiseach directly or any of his political advisers.	Granted	04/03/2021
FOI/2021/0073	The Covid19 Research Paper (reported in the media 17/10/20 and again 15/02/2021), and all accompanying information, including emails, letters and other correspondence, sent to the Taoiseach by Marc MacSharry TD.	Part granted	03/03/2021
FOI/2021/0078	1. All correspondence between then Special Advisor to the Taoiseach, Clare Mungovan and the Department of Health regarding the requesting, seeking or furnishing of the document entitled Terms of Agreement between the Department of Health, the HSE and IMO, re: GP Contractual Reform and Service Development relating to the GMS contract through electronic means, including email and private messaging services in the conduct of official government business between the 1st April 2019 and 20th April 2019, in accordance with Circular Number 09/19, entitled Policy on the Use of Private Email and Other Messaging Services, and Central Policy Unit Guidance Note 24, issued December 2015, entitled FOI Act implications for any official information held in non-official systems, email accounts and devices; 2. All correspondence between then Special Advisor to the Taoiseach, Clare Mungovan and the then Taoiseach Leo Varadkar regarding the requesting, seeking or furnishing of the document entitled Terms of Agreement between the Department of Health, the HSE and IMO, re: GP Contractual Reform and Service Development relating to the GMS contract through electronic means, including email and private messaging services in the conduct of official government business between the 1st April 2019 and 20th April 2019, in accordance with Circular Number 09/19, entitled Policy on the Use of Private Email and Other Messaging Services, and Central Policy Unit Guidance Note 24, issued December 2015, entitled FOI Act implications for any official information held in non-official systems, email accounts and devices;	Part granted	23/03/2021
FOI/2021/0079	Any records which discuss allowing airport bars to remain open during Covid-19 restrictions.	Granted	25/03/2021
FOI/2021/0085	I would like copies of all correspondence between Taoiseach Micheál Martin and/or his senior political advisers and the company Pfizer since December 2020.	Part granted	24/03/2021

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Ref No	**Description**	**Decision**	**Date Released**
FOI/2021/0088	Copies of any Cabinet records relating to the creation of the legislation for commissions of investigation from. This request to cover the calendar year 2004.	Granted	30/03/2021
FOI/2021/0089	A datadump of the financial management system that is used for recording costs associated with the Future of Media Commission. A record of the most up to date total cost for the commission's work thus far.	Granted	26/03/2021
FOI/2021/0092	All correspondence sent and received between Huawei and Taoiseach Micheál Martin, between 1st August 2020 and 1st March 2021.	Part granted	23/03/2021