



Mr. Gareth O'Brien

By email to: gobrien@yupon.com

3 June 2025

Our ref: FOI-2025-0120

Re: FOI request – decision letter

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I refer to your request dated 2 May 2025 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, for records held by the Department of Transport. I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent on 6 May 2025. Your request sought:

1. All written communications (including emails, letters, memos, or meeting records) with officials or ministers within the Department of Transport that reference any conflict of interest concerns related to DAA;
2. All internal Departmental communications that assess or discuss potential conflicts of interest involving Mr. Jacobs or Mr. Geoghegan;
3. Any records, declarations, or correspondence regarding ownership of shares in any airline operating into or out of Dublin Airport by Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Geoghegan, or any other director of DAA, including any assessments of whether such ownership constituted or may have constituted a conflict of interest in their role as company officers.

Please include records from January 2023 to the present and provide them in electronic format if possible.

As the decision maker on your request, I have now made a decision to part grant your request on 3 June 2025. The purpose of this letter is to explain the decision.



This explanation has the following parts:

1. a schedule of all of the records covered by your request;
2. an explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied;
3. a statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these three parts in turn.

1. Schedule of records

A schedule is enclosed with this letter, it shows the documents that the Department of Transport considers relevant to your request. It describes each document and refers to the sections of the FOI Act which apply to prevent release. The schedule also refers you to sections of the detailed explanation given under heading 2 below, which are relevant to the document in question. It also gives you a summary and overview of the decision as a whole.

2. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

The sections of the Act which can apply to deny access to documents are known as its exemption provisions. Access to records identified in the attached schedule, have been part granted under the Sections of the Act outlined below.

Records 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are part granted. I have redacted the personal information contained in the records under Section 37(1) of the Act.

Section 37(1) of the Act states:

- (1) Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).

3. Rights of appeal



If the event that you are not satisfied with this decision you may make an appeal. If you wish to make an appeal, you can do so in writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Transport, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 or by e-mail to FreedomInformation@transport.gov.ie

A fee of €30 for processing the application is required. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Department of Transport. If you wish to make payment by electronic means, please contact the Freedom of Information unit.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. 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 the Department.

4. Publication

All non-personal FOI requests will be recorded on an FOI disclosure log which will be published on the Department of Transport website in due course.

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact me by email at seamus.fitzpatrick@transport.gov.ie

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Séamus', written over a horizontal line.

Séamus Fitzpatrick
Airports Division

