

Annex C

LAWFULNESS, FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY TEST Application of FOI exemption Section 40(2) and EIR exception 12(3) 13(1)

DOF/2025-0373

A Lawfulness, Fairness and Transparency test must be carried out by the Department of Finance when considering disclosure of third-party personal data which falls within the scope of an FOI or EIR request.

Under the freedom of Information Act, I wish to request details of a meeting the Finance Minister held recently with the China's Consul General in Belfast, Li Nan.

The meeting was held in May,

Please disclose the following:

- 1. A copy of any minutes taken of the meeting (redacted where appropriate if necessary)**
- 2. A copy of any handwritten notes of the meeting (redacted where appropriate if necessary)**

Consideration of the personal data falling within the scope of the request

Guidance from the Information Commissioner's office states that personal data only includes information relating to natural persons who:

- can be identified or who are identifiable, directly from the information in question; or
- who can be indirectly identified from that information in combination with other information.

Description of personal data/issue(s) under consideration:

The data held is in relation to names and contact details of staff, which constitutes their personal information and is not considered in the public interest to release to the world at large.

To process and release the personal data of the individual would require their consent. The department does not consider it appropriate to approach the individuals to seek their consent for release – there is an expectation this type of information is withheld.

Lawfulness

Do either of the two lawful basis below, which allow for the disclosure of personal data, apply? **No**

Consent: This applies when the data subject(s) clear consent exists, allowing the department to disclose personal data falling within the scope of this request.

Legitimate interests: This applies when disclosure is necessary for the department's legitimate interests or the legitimate interests of a third party that overrides the data subject(s) rights and freedoms, particularly their right to privacy.

Conclusion

Having considered all the information contained within the Lawfulness, Fairness and Transparency Test, the department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of third-party personal data falling within the scope of the request (of which the requester is not the data subject).