

28/05/202

Re: Freedom of Information request 202504 – Request Part-Granted.

Dear

I refer to your request dated and received on the 29th of April 2025 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this FOI body. Your request sought:

a copy of all correspondence between the LDA and the Department of Defence and/or the Defence Forces with regard to the transfer of state land for the purpose of residential development. This request to cover the period 1 May 2024 to date.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part - grant your request on the 28th of May 2025.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

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

On receipt your request was forwarded to the relevant sections within the LDA to identify records held which were within the scope of your request as set out above. The records requested are attached to this decision letter for your information.

A number of redactions have also been applied to the attached records under Sections 37(1) of the Act. These redactions are detailed in the Schedule of Records in **Appendix 1**.

Section 37-Personal Information

Under the FOI Act, records are released without any restriction as to how they may be used and thus, release under the FOI Act, is in effect, and regarded as being released to the world at large. As a result, I am conscious of my obligations to retain personal information in a confidential and secure manner and prevent personal information from being released into the public domain unnecessarily.

Additionally, the LDA as a matter of course redacts the mobile phone numbers and email addresses of employees as these are part of the body's IT security management.

Section 2 of the FOI Act defines personal information as follows:

2. (1) In this Act "personal information" means information about an identifiable individual that, either

(a) would, in the ordinary course of events, be known only to the individual or members of the family, or friends, of the individual, or

(b) is held by an FOI body on the understanding that it would be treated by that body as confidential, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes

(iii) information relating to the employment or employment history of the individual,

Section 37(1) provides that a public body shall refuse to grant a request if access to the records concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information. I am satisfied that parts of certain records relate to third parties employed outside of the LDA and I am satisfied that the records consist of personal information.

37. (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).

As section 37 requires a public interest test be carried out. I have considered the public interest issues which arise in this case and have taken account of the following factors in favour of release:

- Ensuring openness and transparency of organisational functions to the greatest possible extent.
- The public interest in members of the public exercising their rights under the FOI Act.
- That there is more than just a transitory interest by the public in this information.
- The right to privacy is outweighed by the needs of the public.

In considering the public interest factors which favour withholding the records, I have taken account of the following:

- The public interest is not best served by releasing these records.
- That the Organisation can conduct its business in a confidential manner.
- That the integrity of the Land Development Agency's IT security infrastructure is protected.
- That there is no overriding public interest that outweighs the individual's right to privacy.
- Allowing a public body to hold personal information without undue access by members of the public.

Having balanced the public interest factors both for and against release, I decided that the public interest in preserving the integrity of the LDA's IT security infrastructure outweighs the public interest which would be served were the contact details of an official employed by this body public body released to you.



An Ghníomhaireacht Forbartha Talamh
The Land Development Agency

2. Right of Appeal

In the event that you are unhappy with this decision you may appeal against it. If you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Land Development Agency, 4th Floor, Ashford House, Tara Street, Dublin 2 or by e-mail to foi@lda.ie.

Please note that a fee applies. This fee has been set at €30 (€10 for a Medical Card holder). Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque, and made payable to Head of Finance, Land Development Agency, 2nd Floor, Ashford House, Tara Street, Dublin 2.

Payment can be made by electronic means, using the following details:

The Land Development Agency DAC

IE61AIBK93101264101092

BIC: AIBKIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (**FOI 202504**) is included in the payment details.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks of 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 this body.

Please be advised that the Land Development Agency replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website at lda.ie.

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on (01) 9103400.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Szyszko,
Senior Compliance Manager

Appendix 1: Schedule of Records

Requester name:				Request Re:202504	
Page number	Description of document	Deletions	Relevant section of FOI Act	Reasons for deletion	Decision Maker's decision
1	Record 1 Memo of Meeting between LDA and Dept. of Defence regarding Report on Relevant Public Lands	NA	NA	NA	Grant
2 - 6	Record 2 Letter dated 30 th of August, 2024 from LDA to former Minister for Defence regarding Report on Relevant Public Lands	NA	NA	NA	Grant
7 - 8	Record 3 Letter dated 15 th of April, 2025 from LDA to current Minister for Defence regarding Report on Relevant Public Lands	NA	NA	NA	Grant
9	Record 4 Cover email for letter of 30 th of August 2024	Email and telephone number	37	Personal Information – to preserve the integrity of the LDA's IT security infrastructure	Part-Grant
		Total number of pages			9
		Total number of pages for full release			8
		Total number of pages for partial release			1
		Total number of pages being withheld			0

Department of Defence RRPL meeting 14/01/2025

Alan Kelly, Cillian Lehmann, Sinéad O'Donoghue, Siobhán Campbell

Eoin McDonnell, Sarah Kelly

Settlement	Clare comments
St Brigid's	Noted that the Dept of Defence have signed a contract for a new medical facility to be provided in Baldonnell. The relocation is due to be complete by Autumn 2026. Noted that DoD were keen to progress, LDA to follow up with DCC. Noted that facility is in use for tribunal currently.
Columb Barracks	Not available. In use for IPAS.
Cork Prison	Noted that this site has been earmarked for housing in the past. Playing pitches currently in use by locals. Would require design lead exploration. DoD to revert on current service use but could be considered.
Sarsfield Barracks	Noted that HSE has approached DoD to purchase the site. Currently used for international protection applicants. Most western side of barracks will be held by DoD.
Ballymullen Barracks	Noted that DoD conducted a consolidation phase to reduce the number of land holdings recently. As Europe's military stance has changed in the past number of years, it's important that DoD have sufficient land holdings in the case of world events.
Points to note	



Minister Micheál Martin
Department of Defence
Station Road
Newbridge
Co Kildare
W12AD93

Date 30th August 2024

RE: Section 52 of the Land Development Agency Act 2021 and the Agency's Report to Government on Relevant Public Land.

Dear Minister Martin,

I write regarding work that The Land Development Agency (The LDA) is progressing in line with its statutory obligations under Section 52 of the LDA Act to develop a Report on Relevant Public Land, hereafter referred to as 'the Report'.

The Report represents an important step in the LDA's process of identifying state land that it has assessed as having potential for development for affordable housing in the medium and long term. The preparation of the Report is a statutory requirement and its submission to Government, at least every two years, supports a number of key aims of the LDA. These include:

- To identify and report on relevant public land
- To co-ordinate and make more efficient use of land within state control
- To provide more affordable homes where they are needed most and
- To build sustainable communities now and into the future

The Report is being developed in phases. The First Report (here) was published in March 2023 and focused on the five cities (Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford) and the five regional growth centers (Drogheda, Dundalk, Athlone, Letterkenny and Sligo). These areas account for approximately 75% of the relevant public land identified nationally. The approach is consistent with the National Planning Framework objectives to achieve compact, sustainable and balanced regional development. The Report included 83 state owned parcels of land with development potential for up to 67,000 homes in the medium to long term.

As part of the development of the *next phase of the Report*, the LDA has been assessing the remaining 45 settlements (See Appendix 1 for list of towns and urban areas included for assessment) with a population of greater than 10,000 to identify relevant public land that may have potential for future development for affordable and social housing. While this covers a significant area, in some of the settlements or towns, as you will appreciate, there is no, or limited relevant public land identified.

In addition, the LDA is also reviewing the lands identified in the first Report. It is acknowledged that as this first report was the first of its kind in Ireland and given the intrinsic complexity in compiling the underlying information which is not always readily available, the report will require ongoing additions, refinements and updating as information becomes available. The assessments undertaken in the Report are early stage and indicative, and any proposals for development would require agreement to access the land, detailed due diligence, and approvals as part of the relevant planning processes.

The Land Development Agency | Unlocking State Lands, Opening Doors to Affordable Housing

Stiúthóir / Directors: Mr C O'Rourke (Cathaoirleach / Chairperson), J Coleman (Chief Executive / Príomhthreidhmheannach), A Markey, G Smith, J O'Connor, B Keogh, S Neely.

The Land Development Agency, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Ashford House, Tara Street, Dublin D02 VX67. No 710453. An Ghníomhaireacht Forbartha Talún, cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scalreanna, cláraithe in Éirinn ag Teach Ashford, Sráid na Teamhrach, Baile Átha Cliath D02 VX67. Uimhir 710453.

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It is acknowledged that there may well be further information that you have that would be helpful to make the LDA aware of as part of this review process. This may be where proposals are advanced, or operational uses need to be balanced with the potential for some or all the land to be made available for housing.

We appreciate there are complexities and challenges and welcome feedback on the relevant public lands that your organization is the owner of or has an interest in, that were included in the first Report as part of this ongoing process.

We would welcome relevant updates and or pertinent information from land owning interests regarding the lands identified in the LDA's 2023 Report. This may include any corrections or additions to support our review of the information we have included in the first Report:

This feedback should include:

- (a) Updates, corrections or refinements to information that we have and clarifications or additions to consider.
- (b) any information regarding how the retention of each parcel of land that is in your ownership in the First Report may be necessary for the performance of your organisation, and any information regarding land ownership for the list of towns in Appendix 1
- (c) any information regarding current use of the land concerned, and
- (d) Any further updates or follow up meetings.

Please also consider if there is pertinent information that would be of benefit to share with the LDA for the purposes of preparing the next phase of the Section 52 Report in relation to relevant public land interests you may have in the urban areas listed in Appendix 1.

Thank you if you have already provided the LDA with information in relation to our requests.

The LDA appreciates your support and welcomes ongoing engagement with you. Please let us know if you have any updates or queries at publicland@lda.ie ideally by 30th September.

Furthermore, should you wish to meet to discuss any of these lands, and the second phase of the Report on Relevant Public Land or the process as set out, please do not hesitate to contact Alan Kelly, Cillian Lehmann or myself at the address provided

Yours sincerely,



Dearbhla Lawson
Head of Strategic Planning
Land Development Agency

Appendix 1:

List of census towns subject to the Report on Relevant Public Lands:

- Dublin city and suburbs, Counties Dublin & Meath
- Cork city and suburbs, Co Cork
- Limerick city and suburbs, Counties Limerick & Clare
- Galway city and suburbs, Co Galway
- Waterford city and suburbs, Counties Waterford & Kilkenny
- Drogheda, Counties Louth & Meath
- Dundalk, Co Louth
- Swords, Co Dublin
- Navan, Co Meath
- Bray, Counties Wicklow & Dublin
- Ennis, Co Clare
- Carlow, Counties Carlow & Laois
- Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny
- Naas, Co Kildare
- Tralee, Co Kerry
- Newbridge, Co Kildare
- Balbriggan, Co Dublin
- Portlaoise, Co Laois
- Athlone, Counties Westmeath & Roscommon
- Mullingar, Co Westmeath
- Letterkenny, Co Donegal
- Greystones-Delgany, Co Wicklow
- Wexford, Co Wexford
- Sligo, Co Sligo
- Celbridge, Co Kildare
- Malahide, Co Dublin
- Clonmel, Counties Tipperary & Waterford
- Carrigaline, Co Cork
- Maynooth, Co Kildare
- Leixlip, Co Kildare
- Ashbourne, Co Meath
- Laytown-Bettystown-Mornington-Donacorney, Co Meath
- Tullamore, Co Offaly
- Killarney, Co Kerry
- Cobh, Co Cork
- Midleton, Co Cork
- Mallow, Co Cork
- Arklow, Co Wicklow
- Castlebar, Co Mayo
- Wicklow, Co Wicklow
- Enniscorthy, Co Wexford

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An Ghníomhaireacht Forbartha Talún
The Land Development Agency

- Cavan, Co Cavan
- Gorey, Co Wexford
- Tramore, Co Waterford
- Athy, Co Kildare
- Longford, Co Longford
- Rush, Co Dublin
- Portmarnock, Co Dublin
- Skerries, Co Dublin
- Ballina, Co Mayo
- Kildare, Co Kildare
- Shannon, Co Clare
- Dungarvan, Co Waterford
- Ratoath, Co Meath
- Nenagh, Co Tipperary

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Tánaiste Simon Harris
Minister for Defence
Department of Defence
Station Road
Newbridge
Co. Kildare
Date 15th April 2025

Sent via email – simon.harris@oireachtas.ie
minister@defence.ie

RE: Section 52 of the Land Development Agency Act 2021 and the Agency's Report to Government on Relevant Public Land.

Dear Mr Harris,

I am writing to inform you that, in line with Section 52 of the LDA Act 2021, the Land Development Agency has prepared and submitted the 2025 Report on Relevant Public Land to the Government. This is the LDA's second Report under this provision of the LDA Act 2021.

This Report which is submitted at least biannually, for Government consideration, assesses public land in 55 census towns with populations over 10,000, from Nenagh, Co Tipperary to Dublin City and suburbs.

The primary role of the LDA in preparing this Report is to identify Relevant Public Land and assess its potential for future development into affordable and social housing.

The Report supports an analysis of the public land and its potential to aid in the delivery of affordable and social homes. The report acknowledges that much of this land identified is currently in some use and not immediately available for development. However, subject to Government consideration, supports and/or interventions, certain lands or underutilised parcels could be developed in the short to medium term. Others may require significant investment and decisions on future use and relocation to progress redevelopment for housing and could yield wider social and economic benefits in the public interest.

It is intended that the Report will assist the Government in identifying the potential for public land to support with building a pipeline of affordable and social housing into the future. The Report recognises that there are many complexities involved, including that some lands identified have existing operational uses which may require consolidation and/or relocation. The Report classifies land identifies from least constrained to moderately, to significantly constrained to support with identifying the potential as well as likely challenges, indicative costs and estimated timeline for development.

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This 2025 Report includes a total of 102 state owned parcels of land with development potential for up to 71,000 homes in the medium to long term. This is at an early stage and is an indicative assessment. It is also subject to the land involved being made available for development, and undergoing due diligence, and relevant planning processes.

The Report is now available on the LDA website at [Report on Relevant Lands - lda](#).

The Report identifies certain relevant public lands (public land), which is owned by your organisation, which the LDA has assessed as having potential for use for the purposes of the LDA Act 2021. The LDA would be happy to meet with you to discuss the lands identified.

It is important to note that this is the first step in a process that identifies, and reports, to Government on certain relevant public land that the Agency has assessed and considers as having potential for the development of affordable and social housing.

Further consideration will be undertaken by Government to determine whether the sites assessed in the report are to be progressed for development or not.

The LDA is keen to continue to engage with Government, Local Authorities, State Agencies and other stakeholders regarding the potential for state land as part of an ongoing process of continuous review, in line with its legislative requirements.

The LDA looks forward to engaging with you further on this matter. Please let us know if you have any updates or queries in respect to the sites listed by contacting us via email at publicland@lda.ie.

Furthermore, should you wish to discuss any aspect of the legislation as set out, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dearbhla Lawson
Director of Planning Services
The Land Development Agency

Record 4

Chris Lowe

From: Dearbhla Lawson
Sent: Friday 30 August 2024 16:38
To: 'minister@defence.ie'
Subject: The Land Development Agency | Report on Relevant Public Land
Attachments: Department of Defence _The LDA Report on Relevant Public Land letter to landowner 30.08.2024.pdf

Dear Minister Martin,

Please find attached a letter from the Land Development Agency (The LDA) regarding our statutory obligations as set out at Section 52 of the LDA Act, to develop a Report on Relevant Public Land. As set out in this letter, we are seeking feedback on any information you have regarding the lands identified in the LDA's 2023 Report ([Report on Relevant Lands - lda](#)). This report is currently undergoing a revision, as we look to publish the second phase of this report in Q1 2025.

Please get in touch at pulicland@lda.ie with any information regarding these lands. Furthermore, should you wish to meet to discuss any of these lands, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Dearbhla Lawson
Head of Strategic Planning
M: [REDACTED]

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