

Motor Vehicles Purchased by the Department of Foreign Affairs

Year ended 31 December 2020

The Department of Foreign Affairs purchases motor vehicles to facilitate the efficient functioning and smooth operations of HQ and its Missions abroad. In particular, Mission staff are required to undertake a significant volume of travel in the performance of their official functions. This ranges from city journeys during the working day and in the evening, to long journeys of up to several hundred miles by road. As well as demanding schedules, in many cases there are also issues related to limited availability of public transport, security considerations and location. Official vehicles also provide an important logistical support to Missions.

Motor vehicles are used for as long as they can be operated in a safe and efficient manner without excessive maintenance costs or substantial reduction in their trade-in value. In general, sanction to replace an official vehicle will be given only where the vehicle is old, where there are security, safety or environmental considerations; where there is a business requirement for the purchase or replacement; or the cost of maintenance/operating are increasing to an extent that maintaining the vehicle is no longer economical. When sanctioning the purchase of vehicles for Missions abroad, consideration is given to the climate, terrain, safety and security issues which prevail in the country as well as environmental considerations. Vehicle purchases must comply with the Department's Green Foreign Ministry policy of minimising our carbon footprint. The Department is committed to procuring vehicles with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life-cycle and focuses on more fuel-efficient models. Factors like pollutant emissions, fuel efficiency and noise levels are taken into account when considering vehicle specifications. The procurement processes initially reviews the feasibility of electric vehicles. Then it considers hybrid options and finally vehicles with low carbon emissions. It should be noted that some of our Missions operate in difficult environments where security and health and safety issues will be a significant factor when deciding on an official vehicle.

Below are the details of the vehicles purchased by the Department in 2020

Vote 28

Mission	Type	Make & Model	Net Cost	Previous vehicle	Description
Berlin	Hybrid	Mercedes E300e	€18,886	Audi A6	Replacement vehicle
Los Angeles	Hybrid	Lexus NX300H	€38,078	N/A	New Mission
Austin	Hybrid	Toyota Highlander H	€40,738	N/A	New vehicle
Cairo	Petrol	Toyota Prado 4x4	€26,903	Toyota Land Cruiser	Replacement Vehicle
Jakarta	Hybrid	Toyota Astra	NIL	Land Rover Defender	Replacement vehicle; the cost was completely offset by the sale of the previous vehicle
Brasília	Hybrid	BMW X3 3e	€36,914	Audi A6	Replacement vehicle
Buenos Aires	Diesel	Toyota SW4 4x4	€36,950	Audi A6	Replacement vehicle
Abu Dhabi	Hybrid	Lexus ES300H	€29,865	Mercedes E300 AMG	Replacement vehicle
Berne	Hybrid	BMW 530e	€35,834	BMW 520D	Replacement vehicle

Vote 27

Mission	Type	Make & Model	Net Cost	Previous vehicle	Description
Amman	Hybrid	Toyota Corolla 1.8	€18,995	N/A	New Mission
Hanoi	Petrol	Toyota Land Cruiser Prado 4x4	€39,550	Toyota Prado 4x4	Replacement vehicle
Kampala	Diesel	Toyota Land Cruiser Prado 4x4	€35,117	Toyota Land cruiser	Replacement vehicle
Freetown	Petrol (Motorbike)	2 x Yamaha YCZ 125	€3,509	N/A	1 new; 1 replacement