

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

July, 2017

Our Ref: Fol/Req/17/104

Mr Rowan Gallagher,

Dear Mr Gallagher,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

*A schedule of the current stock of the DFA wine cellar in as much detail as possible.*

*Documents relating to the sale of stock from the wine cellar since it was decided to start selling stock.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 21 June 2017.

The Department holds a stock of wine for use in relation to State and Official hospitality. The Department organised 149 events in Iveagh House in 2016 supporting priorities such as the advancement of reconciliation and cooperation, the promotion of Ireland's values and priorities on global themes, the promotion of Ireland's bilateral relations on political and economic interests, as well as cultural events with an international dimension.

The stock facilitates provision of wines suitable for official events at a significant discount from the cost of purchasing them from caterers at the time they are required. In line with expenditure practices overall in the Department, the purchase of new stock is assessed carefully and kept under continuing review to ensure value for money.

A small stock of other alcoholic beverages including spirits is held by the Department for use during State and Official Visits.

Following a review of wine stock held by the Department in 2013, it was decided that the possibility of selling the higher value wines would be explored.

Following this review and expressions of interest received, the Department negotiated the sale of a package in December 2013 for 4 labels with a view to recouping the original outlay by the Department. The wine was sold to a single wine merchant based in Ireland.

In January 2014 the Department again approached wine merchants regarding the market value of its wine stock. However no wine was sold then or since.

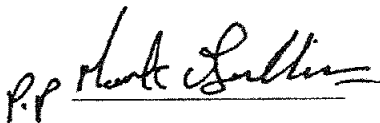
I have identified 28 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached.

#### **Right of Appeal**

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so in writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 or by email to [foi@dfat.ie](mailto:foi@dfat.ie). A fee applies for an appeal for access to non-personal information; the level of this fee has been set at €30. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at [foi@dfat.ie](mailto:foi@dfat.ie), or 01-4082857.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification. 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 Department.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.P. McKenna', written over a horizontal line.

Cecily McKenna