



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/17/122

Date Thursday, 03 August 2017

Dear Mr. Foxe,

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:

-Copies of all records – to include e-mail, memos, letters, and so on – relating to cost and possibility of reviewing accommodation arrangements for the Irish Ambassador to Tokyo. This period to cover the period since the date of my last request on Sept 27, 2016.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4th July 2017.

I have identified 44 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to refuse 33 of the records. I have made a decision to part-grant 8 of the records. I have made a decision to grant 3 of the records.

As you will have seen in other responses to requests, the Department is happy to release records once projects are completed but it puts us at a commercial disadvantage to do so while planning a process or project there for where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under section 15. (1)(d) Section 15(1) (i) (i) Refusal on administrative grounds, section 32(1)(ix) Law enforcement and public safety, section 36. (1)(b), section 36. (1)(c) Commercially sensitive information, under section 37. (1) Personal Information and under section 40. (1)(b) Financial and Economic interests of the State.

This Department continues to review all options in relation to official accommodation in all countries where we have diplomatic representation so as to ensure value for money and the delivery of the Department's strategic objectives. Where possible, we also examine the scope for purchase/construction with a view converting rental payments in cities, such as Tokyo, into a long term asset for Ireland. Concerning Tokyo, we continue discussions with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. In relation to this work, it would not be appropriate to release information on our plans as there is an ongoing commercial sensitivity. The primary objective is to ensure that any investment internationally offers value for money for the Irish taxpayer.

We are not re-issuing documents to you in this FOI response that you have sent to this Department or documents that we have already sent to you to include e-mail correspondence relating to this FOI or documents already in the Public Domain such as already issued FOI's, PQ's and so on.

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@dfa.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@dfa.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 purple ink, reading "Kerry G. Sullivan", is written over a horizontal line.