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Our Ref: FoI/Req/17/174

Mr. Jack Power

6th October 2017

Dear Mr. Power

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:

“the cost of posting/transferring Irish passport applications made in the Irish Embassy in London to the Dublin office for processing from 1st January 2017 to 1st September 2017.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 15 September.

I have identified one record that falls within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the schedule below. I have made a decision to grant the record.

Schedule – FOI Request 17/174 Mr Jack Power		
Record Description	Granted/Part-Granted/Refused	Section exempted under:
1. Table of costs associated with sending diplomatic bag from Passport Office London to Dublin	Granted	

All postal applications which are received at the Embassy of Ireland’s Passport Office in London are transferred by diplomatic courier to Dublin for processing. The diplomatic bag may also include other miscellaneous passport related correspondence. The total cost of sending bags by diplomatic courier from Passport Office London to Dublin for the period in question is €10,945. I attach a table which shows the breakdown of these costs on a monthly basis from January to August 2017 inclusive.

The new online passport service was launched in March 2017 and will allow adults to renew their passport books and cards online **wherever they are in the world**. This will lead to a reduction in the costs, as applicants will no longer have to submit handwritten forms, have them witnessed or have photos printed. The process is entirely online, is available 24 hours a day and photos are pulled electronically from digital photo booths or uploaded by the applicant. The service is secure in that this is a public service and the highest standards are applied. Over 11,000 online applications have been received from Britain in the period between the launch of the new service and the end of August.


In addition, Embassy London, along with the Passport Service, is currently reviewing internal procedures with a view to making other changes which will reduce costs further.

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


Noeleen Curran