



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/299

Date 14th November 2019

Dear Ms Wilson

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

1. The amount of rent that Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade paid for each Irish Embassy and Consulate General Offices in 2018

2. Please indicate beside each Irish Embassy and or Irish Consulate General Office that are state owned and therefore no rent would be paid.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request sent to you on 23rd October 2019.

I have identified 1 record that falls within the scope of your request. This is a printout from our financial records showing office rents paid in 2018 for Irish Embassies and Consulates General around the world. In most cases this includes parking, maintenance and operational fees, etc. All amounts are in Euro. I have added some comments. I have made a decision to grant that record.

As you know, Irish Missions are platforms for providing services to our citizens and promoting Ireland's interests and values abroad. In many cases they are used to host events which raise awareness of Ireland and allow us to capitalise on trade, economic and cultural opportunities. They also promote Irish products and services, often in collaboration with Irish State Agencies including the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Bord Bia and Irish Higher Education Institutions. Official premises also serve as showcases for Irish arts, crafts and other products. A number of our Embassies are co-located with Irish State Agencies in 'Ireland Houses'.

The Department's outlay on rents varies from one year to the next as a result of local market forces and currency fluctuations, as well as the terms of leases, for example indexation in line with the local CPI. The Department works hard to ensure that we obtain best value for money on the rental costs of the buildings we rent. We use the services of local real estate agents to thoroughly assess local property markets and also obtain informal advice from our business, diplomatic and other contacts, so as to ensure that our decisions are well informed.


Brexit is one of the most significant challenges the country will face in the coming years. Ireland must increase its presence in fast-growing/emerging markets while also deepening our level of penetration in the more developed and familiar ones. Our diplomatic missions already play an important part in this and we will continue to give a high priority to the promotion of Irish business and trade.

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,



Kenneth Byrne

Property Management Unit