13/02/2020

Our Ref: FoI/Req/20-014

Ken Foxe

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:

A data dump of the Oracle financial management system in use by the Department covering the time period 2019. This information should contain data relating only to the following subheads:

- Travel and subsistence (A2)
- Training and development and incidental expenses (A3)
- Postal and Telecommunications Services (A4)
- Office equipment and external IT services (A5)
- Office premises expenses (A6)
- Consultancy services and value for money and policy reviews (A7)

This should include the following column heads (i.e. fields): payment date; subhead item; cost centre; vendor name; invoice number; line description; amount.

This request should only cover payments in excess of €5,000.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on new date.

I have identified one record that fall within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant the record. Please note that details of costs relating to the Office of the President are not included as they fall outside of the scope of the Act.

In relation to your request for invoice number and vendor name please note the following:

Invoice number is not a record that is easily extracted from our system by way of standardised reports. I have provided a journal reference.

Vendor name is not a requirement when entering payments on our Financial System at our Offices overseas. Please note also that some HQ Cost Centre payments do not have a vendor assigned. This is because payments may have originated at an overseas office.

This information took a significant period of time to retrieve and as a result there was a delay in issuing this response.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for two Votes – Vote 28: Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Vote 27 International Cooperation.
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. 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, 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

Shane O’Keeffe
Financial Management Accountant | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin, Ireland D02 DX45
Email: shane.okeffe@dfa.ie | ☏️: +353 (1) 408 2649 | Mob: +353 (87) 6185215 | 🌐 www.dfa.ie