



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: FOI/Req/22/011

02/02/2022

Ms Jade Wilson
The Irish Times

Dear Ms Wilson,

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 any internal audits of charities funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs under the emigrant support programme, completed in 2021’.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 17 January.

The Department of Foreign Affairs did not carry out any internal audits of charities funded by the Emigrant Support Programme in 2021. As a result, I have not identified any records that fall within the scope of your request. Consequentially I am obliged to rely on section 15 (1) (a) of the FOI Act “1 - A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where—

(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken,”

The Irish Abroad Unit, through engagement of a professional audit firm (ASM Belfast) conducts an annual cycle of external audits of a sample of organisations in receipt of grants from the Emigrant Support Programme to ensure ongoing quality control. In 2021, the Irish Abroad Unit undertook audits of 16 organisations in receipt of funding from the Emigrant Support Programme.

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, (€10 for medical card holders). A copy of the medical card should be provided to avail of the reduced fee. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01-4082618.

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

Ciara McGaughey
Irish Abroad Unit