



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

28 February 2014

Ms. Pamela Duncan  
The Irish Times  
The Irish Times Building  
24 – 28 Tara Street  
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2014/013

Dear Ms Duncan,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 for records held by this Department, in which you requested:

**“I request the following records which I believe to be held by the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding Certificates of Irish Citizenship, the sale of which is operated by FEXCO on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Documents which show:**

- **how many certificates have been sold since their inception**
- **how many certificates have been gifted without payment since the inception of the scheme**
- **the total revenue generated from the sale of the certificates to date (or per year)**
- **the profit/loss recorded by the department on foot of the sale of the certificates to date (or per year)**

**I also request documents/emails/other correspondence containing information relating to Certificates of Irish Citizenship from August 2012 to present.”**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 11 February 2014.

In reviewing the scope of your request and taking account of the information supplied to you for a similar request in October 2012, I determined that there are four elements to be considered:

**Part A:** An update on the numbers of Certificates of Irish Heritage since the inception to the scheme;

**Part B:** Details of the total revenue generated to date from the sale of the Certificates;

**Part C:** Profit/loss recorded by the Department on foot of the sale of the Certificates;

**Part D:** Copies of reviews/reports on the operation of the Certificate scheme from August 2012 to present.

**Part A:**

2,341 Certificates of Irish Heritage have been sold from the inception of the scheme until 17 February 2014. 370 Certificates have been gifted without payment in this period.

**Part B:**

There are no documents held by this Department regarding amount of revenue generated from the sale of the Certificates.

**Part C:**

There is no profit/loss recorded by the Department on foot of the sale of the Certificates. This Department has spent €3,461 to date on technical issues relating to the websites which we own (registering domains and security validation procedures etc) as well as travel costs to meetings with FEXCO in Killorglin and some photographs at the launch in New York.

**Part D:**

The reports of 3 meetings fall within the scope of your request. The details of these are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant all of the reports.

**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, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. A fee applies for an appeal, with the exception of an appeal against the imposition of a fee, the level of this fee has been set at €75. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs.

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



Cecily McKenna  
Irish Abroad Unit

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