



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

15 April 2014

Mr. Senan Molony
Political Editor
Irish Daily Mail,
c/o Political Correspondents,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2014/019

Dear Mr Molony,

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 am seeking records from 1st March 2011 to date of my letter, relating to the following-

Costs of producing Certificates of Irish Citizenship individually and the costs of total production to date, broken down by year, the number of sales to date, broken down by year, and the subtotal and cumulative revenues from sales;

The number and names of all free gifts of conferrals, ditto by year and for what reason;

All reports or cost/benefit analyses relating to the provision of such certs or the creation of such a scheme, or its future value;

All records relating to genealogy in connection with such certs and celebrities or prominent individuals – e.g. research into the Irish origins or otherwise of persons such as Tom Cruise, or other persons of fame or high office thought to be possibly Irish;

Records in relation to www.heritagecertificate.com and the suitability, operation and costs of same, broken down by year and records of all letters to and from persons of fame or high office on whom certs have been bestowed, to include records to persons who may have declined offer of same.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 14 March 2014 and to the deposit paid by you in respect of Search and Retrieval fees.

The records to which access has been granted or part-granted will be released to you on receipt of the balance of the Search and Retrieval fee. The balance is €167.60, payment of which can be made by way of Bank Draft, Money Order, Postal Order or Personal Cheque

made payable to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In reviewing the scope of your request I have determined that there are 9 elements to be considered:

1. Cost of producing Certificates individually:

Prior to March 2011 discussions had taken place between FEXCO, the company awarded with the contract to produce the Certificates, and this Department and it was agreed at this time that the Certificate would cost no more than €40. The cost of an individual Certificate still remains €40.

4 records listed in the attached schedule.

2. Cost of total production to date, broken down by year:

On the basis that this information is regarded as commercially sensitive we are not in a position to provide it (Section 27(1)(b) of FoI Act refers).

3. Number of sales to date, broken down by year:

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014 up to 31 March
No of sales	142	1,208	1,029	105

Copy of up to date report from FEXCO is listed in the attached schedule.

4. Subtotal and cumulative revenues from sales:

On the basis that this information is regarded as commercially sensitive we are not in a position to provide it (Section 27(1)(b) of FoI Act refers).

5. Number and names of all free gifts of conferrals, by year and for what reason:

The following is the breakdown of presentation certificates issued up to 31 March 2014.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014 up to 31 March
No of presentations	7	109	143	8

3 records listed in the attached schedule.

While the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade has been involved in a number of high profile presentations, for example to President Clinton, we are not directly involved in all such presentations and other organisations have made their own arrangements for similar presentations.

6. All reports or cost/benefit analyses relating to the provision of such certs or the creation of such a scheme, or its future value:

Records relating to the creation of the Certificate scheme are outside the timeframe of the documents you have requested. However you may be interested in a copy of the records released in response to a previous request for information dated 26 May 2011 for "all reports/memos/internal correspondence in relation to the production of Certificates of Irishness, including legal advice", as this reply covers the set-up period of the scheme. These records will be included with the records being released under this request.

44 other records are listed in the attached schedule.

7. All records relating to genealogy in connection with such certs and celebrities or

prominent individuals – e.g. research into the Irish origins or otherwise of persons such as Tom Cruise, or other persons of fame or high office thought to be possibly Irish:

44 records were deemed to fall within the scope of this element of your request. Each document is listed in the attached schedule and the “granted/part-granted/refused” status of each record is noted. To date, the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade has not commissioned any genealogical research related to the CoIH.

8. Records in relation to www.heritagecertificate.com and the suitability, operation and costs of same, broken down by year:

There is 1 record relating specifically to www.heritagecertificate.com. However you may be interested to see the breakdown of all costs incurred by this Department relating to the Certificate. As you can see the greater part of these costs relate to domain registrations and renewals.

2 records listed in the attached schedule.

9. Records of all letters to and from persons of fame or high office on whom certs have been bestowed, to include records to persons who may have declined offer of same.

There are no records held by this Department of letters, relating to the timeframe 1 March 2011 to 10 March 2014, to and from persons of fame or high office on whom Certificates have been bestowed or who declined offer of Certificate.

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. 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 and Trade.

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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