



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**  
Dublin 2

Mr Colin Coyle  
The Sunday Times  
Bishop's Square  
Redmond's Hill  
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FOI/REQ/14058

8 August 2014

Dear Colin

I refer to your recent application under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 for access to:

*"1. A copy of all briefing material a copy of all briefing material prepared for the new Ministers at the department following July's reshuffle.*

*2. Details of all wine sold by the department in 2013 and 2014, including the make, vintage, price achieved and any profit made.*

*3. Details of all wine purchased by the department in 2013 and 2014, including the make, vintage and price.*

*4. Details of any payments made to artists, poets, writers, property owners, trusts in relation to material used on the new Irish passport, including poems, music and images of landmarks".*

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 21 July 2014.

I am the deciding officer for your request.

**Item 1**

I have identified 3 records (i.e. briefs for the 3 new Ministers) that falls within the scope of your request and I have made a decision to part-grant access to them. Where information has been redacted, this has been done under the following sections of the FOI Act: Section 19 – *a record prepared for Government*; Section 20 – *deliberative process of a public body*; Section 23 (1) – *investigation of offences*; Section 24(1) – *international relations and matter relating to Northern*

Ireland; Section 24(2) – *diplomatic communications*; Section 28 – *personal information*; Section 46 – *a matter relating to the President*.

I have indicated on the contents page of each brief the exemptions applied to redacted material.

## **Item 2**

I have decided to part-grant access to this information. Details of wine sold in 2013 are as follows:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Price achieved per bottle</u>	<u>Totals</u>
31	Château Lynch Bages, Grand Cru Classé 1998	€68.00	€2,108.00
24	Château Lynch Bages, Grand Cru Classé 2001	€68.00	€1,632.00
120	Château Lynch Bages, Grand Cru Classé 2006	€60.00	€7,200.00
10	La Réserve de Leoville Barton 1998	€22.00	€220.00
Total	€11,160.00		

I have decided to refuse access to information on the profit made under Section 27 of the FOI Act (*commercially sensitive information*). No wine has been sold in 2014.

## **Item 3**

I have decided to grant in full access to the invoices for wine purchased in 2014, which are attached here. No wine was purchased in 2013.

## **Item 4**

No payments were made by the Department in relation to material used on the new Irish passport; therefore I am obliged to refuse this element of your request under Section 10(1)(a) of the Act – *the record does not exist*. Any payments in this regards would have been made by the consortium that produced the passport, which was headed by DLRS Group Ltd.

## **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.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie O'Brien". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Julie O'Brien

FOI Officer