12 November 2015

Mr Martin Grant
Irish Independent
Independent House
27-32 Talbot Street
Dublin 1

Our Ref: FOI/Req/15/100

Dear Mr Grant

I am writing with reference to your request, of 14 October 2015 made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 seeking the following information:

The total amount of money spent on landscaping, gardening, flowers etc by the Department since the current Government came to power in 2011 to the current date.

I am releasing the attached record in respect of “landscaping and gardening” in relation to 9 premises occupied by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. However, you will wish to note that only one of the buildings in question, Iveagh House has a garden and the work there is carried out almost exclusively by the Office of Public Works (OPW). These figures, which are an extract from the Department’s accounts, cover payments for the supply and maintenance of plants for offices, communal areas and window boxes. The third element, “flowers” has been excluded, as agreed with you by the Freedom of Information Manager, Ms Frances Kiernan, in the course of clarifying your request.

Right of Appeal

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so by 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

Monica Horgan
Facilities Management Unit