

Telefón } (01) 478 0822
Telephone }

Tagairt }
Reference }



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
Dublin 2

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

12 November 2015

Our Ref: FoI/Req/15/103

Dear Ms. Duncan

I refer to your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information Act in which you requested the following records:

- The number of people repatriated under the Irish Citizens in distress scheme in the year to date;
- A breakdown of the countries they have been repatriated from in the year to date and the number from each;
- The cost of the scheme in the year to date.

While there is no distress scheme in operation, in exceptional circumstances the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade repatriates Irish citizens from abroad in distress caused by a variety of reasons, for example persons with serious mental illness, destitution or where there is a serious concern for the welfare or safety of a citizen. Persons assisted are obliged to sign an undertaking to repay the amount advanced to the Department, with every effort made to recover the amounts advanced.

This chart shows the countries, numbers involved and total cost to date this year.

2015	Country	Number of citizens
	Thailand	1
	Kenya	1
	France	3
	Total cost	€1,526.41*

*€380 of this amount has been repaid.

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@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) of 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 this Department.

Yours sincerely

Noreen O'Sullivan

Noreen O'Sullivan
Consular Assistance

cc Aine McMahon