



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Mr. Kieran Dineen
The Irish Sun
Bishop's Square
Redmond's Hill
Dublin 2

17 September 2015

Our Ref: **FoI/Req/2015/075**

Dear Mr. Dineen,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

An itemised list of the outlays on each of the goods and services above €1,000 by Irish Aid from 1/06/2014 to 31/07/2015 containing a brief narrative description for each transaction.

Irish Aid, the Irish Government's programme for development co-operation, which is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, focuses on the fight against poverty and hunger through the provision of funding for sustainable development programmes and initiatives in some of the poorest countries in the world. The aid programme is at the heart of our foreign policy. In 2014, the Government provided just over €600 million in Official Development Assistance which represented 0.39% of GNP. In 2015 we are providing just over €600 million in Official Development Assistance. €476.6 million is being administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. A further estimated €125 million is allocated through other Government Departments and through Ireland's share allocation of the EU Development Cooperation Budget.

The focus of the aid programme continues to be on poverty reduction and sustainable development through addressing fundamental human needs such as food security provision of basic education, primary health care and a safe water supply. Assistance to sub-Saharan Africa will continue to be the top priority, as will measures to counter food insecurity and hunger, investment in education, health, the fight against HIV/AIDS, good governance and efforts to promote gender equality.

In 2015, approximately €149 million has been allocated for the bilateral aid programmes in our Key Partner Countries as follows; Ethiopia (€25.5 million), Malawi (€13.5 million), Mozambique (€33.8 million), Sierra Leone (€8 million), Tanzania (€26 million), Uganda (€16.2 million), Vietnam (€12 million), Zambia (€13.7 million) and Lesotho (0.5 million).

A further €15.5 million is allocated to other bilateral programmes including South Africa (€2.8million), Zimbabwe (€2.8 million), Liberia (€5.5 million), while we have allocated €4.2m to be administered by the Palestinian Authority during 2015.

The Irish Aid programme is considered to be one of the most effective aid programmes in the world, particularly in terms of its impact on reducing poverty and its ability to reach the poorest and most vulnerable. The Irish Aid programme last year underwent an independent peer review by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee. The DAC Peer Review is the most serious, wide-ranging and in-depth review of each country's aid programme done by peers in other government aid programmes. The Review gave a very positive assessment of Ireland's aid programme, commending its overall impact, its focus on the poorest, and its clear vision for development cooperation.

In Irish Aid priority countries our Embassies have significant programme management responsibilities in addition to economic and cultural promotion; frontline consular and passport services and engaging with Irish communities. For our Missions abroad St. Patrick's Day presents an unrivalled opportunity to showcase Ireland abroad; it is unique in the world in terms of its reach.

Irish Aid operates in some of the most challenging environments in the world. In accordance with the Department's procurement procedures the acquisition of goods and services is done by competitive tender and the Department is constantly focused on the achievement of value for money. The Department has a duty of care to its staff and the public to ensure that buildings, vehicles and equipment are maintained to a safe standard and ensure essential communication links. Often in these challenging environments it can be difficult to access the relevant goods and services resulting in increased costs.

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) 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



Anne Maher
Development Cooperation Division