8th October 2015

Dear Mr. Patterson,

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:

A) The amount the Department spent on purchasing laptops, tablets, PCs and mobile phones for work related business in the Irish Embassy and other Irish Consulate General Offices in the US for the years 2013, 2014 and to-date in 2015

B) The number of laptops, tablets, PCs and mobile phones that were purchased in each of those years

(C) If the contract to supply laptops, tablets, PCs and Mobile phones to Irish Embassy and Consulate General Offices in the US went out for public tender; If so the name of the company that was awarded the contract; Also when the contract is next due for renewal

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 18/09/2015.

All laptops and PCs provided to Missions are procured in Ireland by the Department’s ICT Unit in Dublin. The ICT Unit use the Centralised Framework Agreements, put in place by the Office of Government Procurement (OGP), for the purchase of laptops and PCs.

Mobile phones and tablets are purchased locally by Missions and are associated with their mobile service providers contracts. The purchase of mobile phones and tablets at Missions do not go to public tender.

I have made a decision to grant access to all of the information requested.

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@dfa.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@dfa.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,

[Signature]

Nuala Courtney