

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2016/133

Mr. Mark O'Regan
Reporter,
Sunday Independent,
Independent House,
27-32 Talbot Street,
Dublin 1.

10th October 2016

Dear Mr. O'Regan,

I refer to the request which you have made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 in which you requested details relating to:

- *All correspondence related to the amount spent by the Department purchasing alcohol since the current Government came to power. This would include an itemised breakdown of the name of each bottle and the purchase price.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 21 September 2016.

The Department holds a stock of wine for use in relation to State and Official hospitality. The stock facilitates provision of wines suitable for official events at a significant discount from the cost of purchasing them from caterers at the time they are required. In line with expenditure practices overall in the Department, the purchase of new stock is assessed carefully and kept under continuing review to ensure value for money.

In relation to your request, I have identified 14 records which fall within the scope of your request. In the period since the current Government came to power on 6th May 2016, to 21st September, wine was purchased to cover receptions hosted by the Department, involving costs of €8.13 to €10.20 ex VAT per bottle. Wine purchases in the period in question involved stock to the value of €9015.41 inc VAT. No other alcohol was purchased. In the period, over 60 events were organised in this Department. These events supported the work of the Department and Government on priorities such as the advancement of reconciliation and cooperation, the promotion of Ireland's values and priorities on global themes, the promotion of Ireland's bilateral relations on political and economic interests, as well as cultural events with an international dimension.

My decisions in relation to the records are detailed in the schedule below.

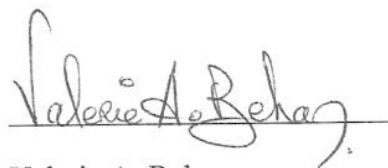
SCHEDULE – FOI Request 16/133		
Record Description	Granted/Part-Granted/Refused	Section exempted under:
1. 12 items of correspondence relating to the purchase of wine from 6 th May 2016 to 21 st September 2016	Granted	
2. 2 Invoices, relating to the purchase of wine from 6 th May 2016 to 21 st September 2016	Granted	

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,



Valerie A. Behan