



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Our Ref: FOI/Req/16/142

Mr Ken Foxe

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21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

Dear Mr Foxe,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to invoices associated with cars purchased in 2015 by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

I have identified 10 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant all of the records.

The Department purchases cars for missions abroad which facilitate the functioning and operations of the mission. These cars are owned by the Department.

Mission staff are required to undertake a good deal of travel in the performance of their official functions. This ranges from city journeys throughout the day and in the evening to long journeys of up to several hundred miles by road. As well as demanding schedules, in many cases there are also issues related to limited availability of public transport, security considerations etc. Official vehicles also provide an important logistical support to Missions.

The purchase of official vehicles is carried out locally in accordance with sanction from Headquarters and is based on a competitive process to ensure that the market is tested and the most cost-effective option is selected.

It is the Department's policy that official cars are only be purchased or replaced if necessary, e.g. where there are security or safety considerations; or the cost of maintenance/operating costs are no longer economical. When sanctioning the purchase of vehicles for missions abroad, consideration is given to the climate, terrain, safety and security issues which prevail in the country.

There was a higher level of vehicle purchases in 2015 as the Department replaced a number of older vehicles (see table below), the replacement of which had been deferred from earlier years because of the difficult budgetary situation pertaining at that time.

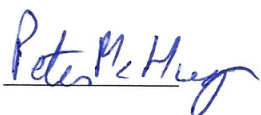
Mission	Date of Transaction	Notes
Ramallah	21/12/15	Part Payment for armoured vehicle (required for security reasons), replacing vehicle purchased in 2005.
Abu Dhabi	30/07/15	Replacing vehicle purchased in 2009.
Riyadh	12/02/15	Replacing vehicle purchased in 2005.
Bangkok	20/08/15	New mission.
Ankara	22/10/15	Replacing vehicle purchased in 2007.
Shanghai	07/12/15	Replacing vehicle purchased in 2009.
Stockholm	03/12/15	Replacing vehicle purchased in 2007.
Beijing	18/12/15	90% balance payment for vehicle, replacing vehicle purchased in 2006.
Oslo	26/11/15	Replacing vehicle purchased in 2005.
Mexico	09/12/15	Replacing vehicle purchased in 2009.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:foi@dfa.ie), or 01-4082857.

You should make this appeal within 20 working days from the date of this notification. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. This appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,



Peter McHugh