



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

Nicola Byrne

Our Ref: FoI/Req/16/156

9th November, 2016

Dear Ms. Byrne,

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:

“..How much rent is being paid for the Irish embassy in Japan (rather than the residence)? How big is the embassy and how many people work there? How long is the lease? When did it commence? What monies were paid at the start of the lease? Have there been any upwards only rent clauses in the lease, and if so when did they finish?

Have there been any downward rent reviews and if so when? What was the rent at the end of the upward only period? “

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on the 14th October 2016.

As the responding officer, I have provided the information in Record 1 as outlined in the schedule below

Record Description	Granted\Part Granted\Refused
Information relating to rents, lease and area of the Chancery, Tokyo.	Granted

Our diplomatic missions abroad perform a wide range of functions in support of Ireland's foreign policy interests. These include frontline consular and passport services to citizens overseas; engaging with and supporting Irish communities; representing and advancing Government policies with other States; and economic, trade and cultural promotion.

The State Agencies, in partnership with the Embassy, showcase Ireland as a center of excellence in areas such as research and development, fin tech, ICT, agri-food, tourism and culture.

It is worth recalling how important this work is for Ireland. Japan remains the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment from Asia into Ireland and the largest market for our exports in Asia. **There was €7 billion worth of trade in goods and services between our two countries in 2014.**

Safeguarding and developing this economic relationship is one of the key reasons why we have a diplomatic presence in Tokyo, and why we have an embassy and official residence.

Economic diplomacy and the promotion of Ireland's economic interests overseas is vital to the wellbeing of our economy. In this regard, we are committed to using all the resources at our disposal - including our diplomatic missions and official residences overseas - to promote Ireland's economic and trading interests, cultural profile and reputation internationally.

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



Donal O'Driscoll
Architectural Services Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade