



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/16183

30th November 2016

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:

Could you provide me with the following information under the FOI Act 2014

1) The annual salary of each Ambassador for the years of 2013, 2014 and 2015

2) The annual salary of each Deputy Ambassador for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 15th November 2016.

I am the responding officer and I have identified one record that falls within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the schedule below. I have made a decision to grant the record.

Record Description		Granted/Part-Granted/Refused
1.	Civil service pay scales with effect from 1 July 2013	Granted

Ireland's diplomatic service abroad consists of a network of 80 diplomatic and consular offices, often called "missions". The network consists of 61 Embassies, 7 multilateral Missions, 11 Consulates General and one Representative Office. In addition to the country of primary accreditation, many Embassies also cover additional countries which enhances the cost-effectiveness of external representation.

Ireland's diplomatic corps performs a wide range of functions in support of Ireland's foreign policy interests. These include representing and advancing government policies with other states and in international organisations, in particular the EU and the UN; economic, trade

and cultural promotion; frontline consular and passport services to our citizens overseas; engaging with and supporting Irish communities abroad, and managing Ireland's overseas development programmes in Ireland's key partner countries. They also work in close coordination with the State Agencies towards the advancement of Irish business and economic interests. As a small open economy, heavily dependent on exports, a strong diplomatic network overseas is critically important. In 2011 the Department assumed additional trade responsibilities. Ambassadors and their teams play an active role in trade, assisting businesses, working with State agencies, and building important networks for Ireland. The value of Irish goods exports alone in 2015 was €111,038m, a 20% increase on 2014.

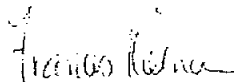
All diplomats are civil servants; they are paid by the State and, as PAYE workers, are subject to the normal tax and social security obligations of civil servants. The salary scales for all civil servants are determined by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The grades of officers serving as Ambassador abroad ranges from First Secretary or equivalent and the grades of officers serving as Deputy Head of Mission ranges from Third Secretary or equivalent.

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



Frances Kiernan