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Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Baile Átha Cliath 2
Dublin 2

Ms Michelle Hennessy
The Journal.ie

16 December 2016

Our Ref: FoI/Req/16/195

Dear Ms. Hennessy

I refer to your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information Act in which you requested the following records:

- (a) The number of Irish people who are currently in prisons/detention centres etc. in other countries, who are receiving consular assistance, broken down by each country.
- (b) The amount of time each of these people has been in prison.
- (c) Details of their alleged crimes.

In reply to part (a) as of 15 December 2016, the tables attached show the number of Irish citizens imprisoned abroad that have been brought to the Department's attention since 2011. This Department's policy is to provide consular assistance to any Irish prisoner that requests it. The records show the number of **new cases** per year (cases that continue are only recorded in the year they come to our attention).

Consular support provided by this Department to Irish prisoners abroad includes: helping the prisoner to keep in contact with family or friends back home; providing information about prison arrangements; arranging for funds sent by the family to be transferred to the prisoner (in line with prison arrangements); seeking to ensure that the prisoner is not discriminated against in any way on account of his/her nationality; seeking to ensure access to appropriate legal representation; and that the authorities in the country where he/she is being imprisoned fulfil their obligations in relation to ensuring the citizen's health and wellbeing.

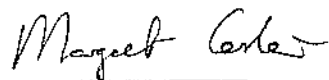
Regarding part (b) and (c), the information held is not broken down by time in prison or by alleged crimes. The Department provides consular assistance in a non-judgemental way, irrespective of the alleged offence.

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



Margaret Carton
Margaret Carton
Consular Assistance