



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/17/188

13 October 2017

Dear Mr. Carroll,

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:

- a) *The total number of Irish Honorary Consulates in operation around the world?*
- b) *The total number and which ones in the Irish Consular network that the Irish DFA pays directly or indirectly for the Honorary Consulates office, office expenses etc?*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 25 September 2017. I am the responding officer for your request.

With regard to part a) of your request there are 98 Irish Honorary Consulates in operation around the world. A full list of locations is attached.

With regard to part b) of your request I am refusing to grant the second part of your request on administrative grounds. Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under section 15(1)(d) *the information is already in the public domain* and 15. (1)(i) *the request relates to records already released, either to the same or a previous requester where (i) the records are available to the requester concerned.*

Information on the functions of Honorary Consuls and how they are funded can be found through the following link - <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/our-services/honorary-consuls/>

All 98 Honorary Consuls are entitled to receive an honorarium of €1,125 per annum, and all 98 are entitled to claim for communications expenses. A small number, approximately less than five, choose not to receive an honorarium.

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. 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, 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

Steven Balbirnie,
Responding Officer.