

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

Rowan Gallagher

Dated: 10 July 2017

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2017/105

Dear Mr. Gallagher,

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, in which you requested the following:

- Overall mobile phone costs per month for 2015 and 2016 for all DFA staff combined.
- Top 5 largest monthly mobile phone bills received in 2015 and 2016 (single monthly bill).
- Top 5 largest mobile phone bills in the year for 2015 and 2016 (total for the years).

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 21 June 2017.

I am the deciding officer for your request. I have identified three records which fall within the scope of your request and I have decided to grant you access to all three. The information is contained in the attached spreadsheets.

Record Description		Granted/Part-Granted/ Refused
1.	Overall mobile phone costs per month for 2015 and 2016 for all DFA staff combined.	Granted
2.	Five largest monthly mobile phone bills received in 2015 and 2016	Granted
3.	Five largest annual mobile phone bills in the year for 2015 and 2016	Granted

Given the global nature of this Department's responsibilities, the Department's ICT Unit must provide a secure platform for communication. Mobile phones may be provided to a staff member where the staff member is required to be contactable on a regular basis outside of normal office hours or is travelling on a frequent basis and must be contactable at all times; or the use of a mobile telephone phone is an absolute necessity for genuine security reasons.

Temporary mobile phones, may also be made available to officers who may be accompanying a visiting delegation/dignitary in Ireland or travelling abroad where there is no ready access to delegation rooms or fixed phones. Given the very considerable cost to the Department of mobile phones currently allocated, Heads of Division are asked to monitor the number and allocation of phones in their area of responsibility and, on the basis of the requirements above, critically examine the number of mobile phones required.

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,



Orla McCarthy
ICT Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade