



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/17031

Ms Fiona Ellis

The Irish Sun

3 March 2017

Dear Ms Ellis,

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:

*Departmental expenditure on each of the following, hairstyling, make-up, personal grooming and general cosmetic expenses, for each year 2010 to 2017.*

*Departmental expenditure on beautician, make-up artist or hairdressing staff, or any such staff on a retainer fee for each year 2010 to 2017.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

I am the deciding officer in this case. I am refusing to grant your request on administrative grounds. Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under the following sections of the Act

*Sections 15 (1)(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken,*

*Section 15(1)(d) the information is already in the public domain*

The Freedom of Information (FoI) Act affords members of the public access to information in the possession of this Department. The Act provides that access be granted to the greatest possible extent consistent with public interest and the right to privacy. In line with the principles of transparency and accountability this Department publishes as much information as possible in an open and accessible manner on a routine basis outside of FOI. Officers responding to requests devote considerable time and resources considering and responding to requests to facilitate as open access as possible to Departmental records. In that spirit of openness this Department has a long standing policy of publishing non-personal FOI requests, response letters and record schedules on the Department's website [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie), where you will find a previous response to a similar request on personal grooming expenditure.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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