



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/17/074

Ken Foxe

Dear Mr. Foxe,

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:

Copies of the invoices associated with the following payments from the Department's finance database and a brief explanation of what was involved in each piece of work:

A6FURN	FURNITURE & FITTINGS (value > €1,000 only)	10/01/2017	Property Management Unit	25619.67
A6FURN	FURNITURE & FITTINGS (value > €1,000 only)	17/11/2016	Property Management Unit	18510.61
A6FURN	FURNITURE & FITTINGS (value > €1,000 only)	10/01/2017	Property Management Unit	12204.7
A6FURN	FURNITURE & FITTINGS (value > €1,000 only)	07/12/2016	Property Management Unit	11689.98
A6FURN	FURNITURE & FITTINGS (value > €1,000 only)	27/01/2016	Property Management Unit	9395.51

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

I have identified 5 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant access to all 5 of these records.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade currently manages and maintains 34 State-owned properties abroad. The Department also leases 113 properties abroad. These properties are utilised by the Department in pursuit of its goals on behalf of the State. They consist of offices and official accommodation which provide platforms for our Missions to promote Ireland's political, economic and cultural interests and values, provide services to our citizens, develop strategic stakeholder relationships and represent Ireland in international organisations. The network of missions abroad now stands at 80 which is

smaller than many similar-sized countries such as Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

As part of the Department's duty of care to staff, their families and visitors to our buildings for meetings and functions, the Department must ensure that security and health and safety standards are met, as well as universal access facilities. The Department maintains appropriate health, safety and security standards in its properties overseas while also implementing any additional international standards in the location in question, as necessary.

Given the varied global locations, currency fluctuations, possible higher local costs, and the need for expert advice and specialist contractors, the expenditures associated with furniture will differ from location to location.

All refurbishment and maintenance at missions are conducted in line with the Department's procurement obligations under Government public tendering and contracting rules, including both National and EU Public Procurement thresholds.

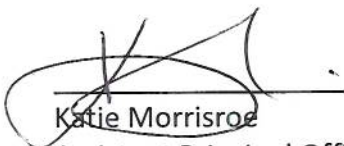
All of these purchases were to provide furniture for Departmental staff. Record 1 was for the purchase in Ireland of a conference table which is comprised of 16 individual tables for the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union. The conference tables were commissioned and tendered for by the Office of Public Works. Record 2 and 4 refer to office furniture for the Embassy of Ireland to Israel. The Embassy moved offices in February 2017. Record 3 refers to the provision of work stations for the new Passport Office in Knockmaun House. This work was carried out under the auspices of the Office of Public Works. Record 5 refers to the provision of new office furniture for the Embassy of Ireland to the Kingdom of Sweden.

### **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



Katie Morrisroe  
Assistant Principal Officer  
Property Management Unit