



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

Mr Gordon Deegan

Ref: FOI/REQ/17/050

4 April 2017

Dear Mr Deegan,

I refer to your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records as follows:

The total amount the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade has spent on taxis to taxi firms in 2016 and 2015 (in Ireland only)

Any internal Dept. reports in 2016 on the scale of the taxi bill and efforts to reduce it.

I refer also to the acknowledgement which was sent to you 22nd March. I am the responding officer, and I have found one record which falls within the scope of your request, and have decided to release it.

Taxi costs for the years 2015 and 2016

2015	€65,395.60
2016	€77,430.05

There are no records which cover the second part of your request.

When considering the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's taxi expenditure it is important to recognise that given the particular demands of the Department's work, officers of this Department are regularly required to work outside normal hours to service briefing and meeting requirements. Taxi usage in these circumstances is an unavoidable business need of the Department. It is monitored closely and officers are advised that judicious use of taxis should be exercised at all times.

The Passport Office, Dublin relocated from Molesworth Street to Knockmaun House, Lower Mount Street in 2016, requiring an increase in usage of taxis for operational purposes.

The Department moved to the Office of Government Procurement Framework for taxis in February 2016. Lynk was awarded the contract by OGP for all government departments together with other bodies and institutions and was selected by that Office on the basis of overall value for money. The move from National Radio Cabs, with whom this Department had a 20% discount agreement, to Lynk with whom the OGP negotiated a 12.5% discount would also have accounted for a rise in the fares.

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) 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.

Is mise, le meas,



Fearghal Ó Maolagáin