



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

22 November 2019

Mr. Fergal Blaney
Irish Daily Mirror

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/304

Dear Mr Blaney,

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:

All records held in the Department of Foreign Affairs in relation to artworks purchased by the DFA since 2011.

This to include, but not be limited to:

- ***Details and costs of all artworks and/or crafts purchased by the department for offices either at home in the Republic of Ireland, or in any of our buildings, embassies, consulates etc. outside of the State for the years 2011 to 2018***
- ***The list to include, but not be limited to, rugs, paintings, busts and other artworks or works of craft purchased***
- ***I would like to request that the information be returned in tabular form for the individual years from 2011 to 2019 inclusive, and showing for each year the items purchased along with each artwork's name, the artist's name, the cost of the piece and, from 2016-2019, its location.***

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4 November 2019.

I have created 6 records in response to your request. The records are listed in the attached schedule. I have made a decision to grant access to those records

The State's Diplomatic network of Missions is used to promote Ireland's political and economic interests and to protect our citizens abroad. It also provides a platform to showcase Irish culture, arts and crafts, building on Ireland's reputation for artistic excellence. For this purpose, the Department purchases paintings, prints, sculptures, pottery, hand fabricated Irish woolen rugs, ceramics and other items by renowned Irish artists, for display in our 160 Mission premises abroad. We also have paintings on loan from the National Gallery of Ireland.

- Record 1 contains details of purchases made from 2011 to 2013
- Records 2 and 3 contain details of purchases made in 2014 and 2015
- Records 4 to 6 contain details of purchases made from 2016 to 2019 (to 31 October) and their current locations.

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



Donal N. O'Connell