



Our Ref: Fol/Req/20/224

Ms. Shauna Bowers,
The Irish Times Building,
24-28 Tara St.,
Dublin 2.

1st December 2020

Dear Ms. Bowers,

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:

- A breakdown of the number of staff members in the department who took sick leave in 2020, 2019 and 2018.
- A breakdown of the number of sick days taken by staff members in the department in 2020, 2019 and 2018.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 30th November 2020.

The sick leave records for staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs are recorded on the PeoplePoint system and are collected and published annually by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER). These figures are available to view on www.gov.ie/en/collection/b944a7-public-service-sick-leave-statistics/

As of the date of this letter, the figures for 2019 had not yet been published, nor had the figures for 2020. The table below details the published figures for 2018 and the provisional figures for 2019 and 2020 (as of 25th November 2020).

	2020	2019	2018
No. of Staff who took sick days*	561	863	734
No. of sick days	7,452**	11,139**	8,512

*The total number of staff represents all staff who took sick leave irrespective of their work patterns.

**The figures for 2019 and 2020 have not yet been collected by DPER and may be subject to change before final publication.



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,

Tricia Everitt

Tricia Everitt
Human Resources