



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2020/055

Date 6 March 2020

Dear Mr. Hutton,

I refer to the request, which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

- **Records showing the number of employee/official mobile devices - to include smartphones, laptops and tablets - reported lost by or stolen by employees/officials in 2017, 2018 and 2019.**
- **Breakdown of same by device and year**
- **Whether devices were encrypted or not.**

I have identified 28 records and 1 spread sheet that falls under your request. I have part granted 24 documents, redactions on all files are under Section 37 (1). I cannot provide the original forms for five documents listed below as no records exist outside of "Spread Sheet 1" on the schedule. The Department has made every effort to search for these records and has checked multiple contact points. This may be the result of a phone call from a user being recorded and no form following. No physical records exists for:

**2017 Phones**

Date	Location	Device
18/04/2017	EU Division	iPhone
22/06/2017	Protocol	Nokia

### 2018 Phones

Date	Location	Device
04/07/2018	Brussels PR	iPhone SE

### 2018 Laptops

Date	Location	Device
13/11/2018	PMUN NY	Elitebook 820 G4

### 2017 iPads

Date	Location	Device
29/06/2017	Eu Division	iPad

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade takes security of our network very seriously and provides multiple layers of security to all devices provided to staff. For security reasons we will not elaborate on this further. We also work closely with the National Cyber Security Centre to ensure the Department is aware of any developing threats to our network. All mobile devices are wiped and laptops are disabled from our network once reported lost or stolen.

While Section 37(1) Personal Information is a mandatory exemption, I'm still obliged to consider whether the public interest would be best served by releasing the records in full. I have taken into account the benefit to the public to be given access to correspondence in a manner that demonstrates transparency and accountability of the Department. I have particularly considered whether releasing the personal information, which includes names of staff would provide any additional benefit in this regard. I have weighed this against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private. The personal information which I have redacted does not have any bearing on the substance or detail of the records, and does not diminish or alter the views expressed, and as such, I am satisfied that on balance the decision to partially redact the records and remove identifiable information is correct.

#### Right to 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](mailto:foi@dfa.ie). A fee applies 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](mailto: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,

Mr. Ciarán Hodge

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

ICT unit,

76-78 Harcourt Street,

Dublin 2