



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/098

Date: 24 May 2021

Dear Paul Hosford

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:

Under the FOI Act 2014, I am seeking the following:

- **Details of all money spent to maintain and decorate Irish embassies, ambassadorial residences and consulates in 2020.**

I would prefer to receive this information electronically, preferably in its original formatting.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 30 April 2021 and to your agreement on 13 May 2021 to limit the scope of your request to expenditure greater than €5,000.

I have identified 1 record that falls within the scope of your request. The record is an extract from the Department's finance system and is listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant this record.

It may be of interest to you to know that the Embassy network worldwide is used by the Department and state agencies in pursuit of its strategic goals on behalf of the State. The network provides a platform 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 Department must ensure that its buildings meet security and health and safety standards, as well as providing universal access facilities as part of our duty of care to staff, users and visitors to our buildings. The Department, in addition, must comply with any additional national standards/requirements in local jurisdiction obligations.

All refurbishment at Embassies 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

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, (€10 for medical card holders). A copy of the medical card should be provided to avail of the reduced fee. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01-4082618.

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

David Ormond
FOI Section
Department of Foreign Affairs