



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

21 November 2018

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2018/268

Dear Requester,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department. Please accept my apologies for the late reply

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 23 October 2018.

The Department purchases cars for missions abroad which facilitate the functioning and operations of the missions. These cars are owned by the Department.

Mission staff are required to undertake a significant volume of travel in the performance of their official functions. This ranges from city journeys during the working day and in the evening to long journeys of up to several hundred kilometres by road. As well as demanding schedules, in many cases there are also issues related to limited availability of public transport, security considerations etc. Official vehicles also provide an important logistical support to Missions.

The purchase of official vehicles is carried out locally in accordance with sanction from Headquarters and is based on a competitive process to ensure that the market is tested and the most cost-effective option is selected.

It is the Department's policy that official cars are only purchased or replaced if necessary, e.g. where there are security or safety considerations; or the cost of maintenance/operating costs are no longer economical. When sanctioning the purchase of vehicles for missions abroad, consideration is given to the climate, terrain, safety and security issues which prevail in the country.

In addition, Vote 27 (International Cooperation) Missions manage the bilateral aid programme in our Partner Countries. Given the complexity and the remote location of the programme in these countries, coupled with security concerns, additional vehicles are required to provide oversight on the aid programme, and safeguard staff when travelling to these remote locations.

In respect of your request, my response is as follows:

**1: The amount that the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade spent on purchasing new or replacement vehicles for use by Irish Embassies staff abroad in the years 2016, 2017 and to-date in 2018 in tabular form**

Year	2016	2017	to 12 October 2018
Amount	€604,314	€237,121	€347,337

Note: The amount spent on purchasing are net of any trade-in or value received on disposal.



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**2: The Irish Embassies that have a car for use for work related business (car owned by the Department of Foreign Affairs and trade) as of 12 October 2018; the make and model of each vehicle in tabular form**

Please see below at Appendix A

**3: The total amount that the Department spent on fuel, maintenance etc. to the vehicles owned by the Department for use by staff of Irish Embassies in the years 2016, 2017 and to-date in 2018 in tabular form**

Year	2016	2017	12 October 2016
Amount	€688,119	€659,482	€508,688

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Yours sincerely

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