

**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**  
Dublin 2

25 May 2018

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2018/113

Mr Ken Foxe

Dear Mr Foxe,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for copies of invoices associated with cars purchased in 2017 by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4 May 2018.

I have identified 5 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant all of the records.

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 miles 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 be 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 the case of the first two records, covering three vehicles, the price paid is net of the trade-in value on the vehicles which were replaced.

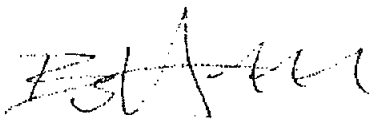
| Mission                        | Date of Transaction | Notes   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Perm. Rep. to the EU, Brussels | 30/11/2017          | Replacing 2 official vehicles purchased in 2008 |
| Embassy, Brussels              | 11/12/2017          | Replacing vehicle purchased in 2008             |
| Riga                           | 11/12/2017          | New vehicle required for official purposes      |
| Atlanta                        | 29/09/2017          | New vehicle required for official purposes      |
| Nicosia                        | 29/09/2017          | Replacing vehicle purchased in 2001             |
|                                |                     |   |

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](mailto: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](mailto:foi@dfa.ie), or 01-4082857.

You should make this appeal within 20 working days from the date of this notification. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. This appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Hanniffy  
Finance Division

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