



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/18/174

13/07/2018

Dear Mr Foxe,

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 spreadsheet/database listing the full costs of the building/refurbishment of the headquarters of the Joint Secretariat. A list of all items purchased as part of the project to include each item's cost and a line description of it.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on the 29th of June 2018.

I have identified 6 records that fall within the scope of your request. I have made a decision to grant 6 of the records. The records are listed in the schedule attached.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade currently manages and maintains properties to support the foreign policy of Ireland. These properties are utilised by the Department in pursuit of its goals on behalf of the State. They consist of offices and official accommodation which provide platforms 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. Official premises serve as a showcase for Irish arts, crafts and products. The network of missions abroad is smaller than many similar-sized countries such as Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

As part of the Department's duty of care to staff, their families and visitors to our buildings for meetings and functions, the Department must ensure that security and health and safety standards are met, as well as universal access facilities. The Department maintains appropriate health, safety and security standards in its properties overseas while also implementing any additional international standards in the location in question, as necessary.

Given the varied global locations, currency fluctuations, possible higher local costs, and the need for expert advice and specialist contractors, the expenditures associated with this will differ from location to location.

All purchases for missions 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.

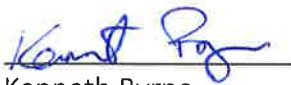
The Irish Secretariat Office in Belfast fulfils the Irish Government's obligations and responsibilities under the Good Friday Agreement. It provides the necessary office space and facilities for the Irish Secretariat, comprising staff from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Justice & Equality.

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.

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



Kenneth Byrne

Property Management Unit

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

SCHEDULE			
Record	Granted/Part-Granted/Refused	Description	
1.	Building/refurbishment costs Linenhall, Belfast	Granted	Cost of project management by Kennedy/Fitzgerald architects. Cost of fit-out by Cleary Contractors. Cost of furniture from Workshop, Farrell Bros and Pelko. Cost of consumables and fittings from both AJ Stuart and Argos.
2.	Breakdown of furniture items from Workshop	Granted	List of furniture items purchased.
3.	Breakdown of consumables and fittings from AJ Stuart	Granted	List of consumables and fittings purchased.
4.	Breakdown of consumables and fittings from Argos	Granted	List of consumables and fittings purchased.
5.	Breakdown of office furniture items from Farrell Bros.	Granted	List of office furniture.
6.	Breakdown of office furniture items from Pelko	Granted	List of office furniture.