



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/101

12<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Mr Martin Grant  
Irish Independent  
Independent House  
27-32 Talbot Street  
Dublin 1

Dear Mr Grant,

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:

- The total amount of money/income earned by the department for FOI search and retrieval (and any associated costs) fees. Please provide a breakdown / total per year since 2011 to the current date in 2015.
- The single highest amount paid in FOI search and retrieval fees and the associated FOI request – please note this is in relation to non-personal request.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.

I am the responding officer in this case and I have identified one record that falls within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the schedule below. I have made a decision to grant the record.

	<b>Record Description</b>	<b>Granted</b>
1.	Records of i) total search and retrieval fees and other cost broken down by year and ii) single highest amount paid in FOI search and retrieval fees and the associated request	Granted

The Freedom of Information (Fol) Act affords members of the public access to information in the possession of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Act provides that access be granted to the greatest possible extent consistent with public interest and the right to privacy. You can access all such requests made since January 2014 through [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)

Certain requests will accrue search and retrieval fees. However, a minimum fee threshold of €101, or 5 hours of an officer's time, has been introduced. Below this threshold, no search, retrieval or copying fees can be charged. While total search and retrieval fees paid to this Department since 2011 amount to €3,319.70, this figure in no way reflects the time and resources devoted by responding officers to Fol requests.

#### 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



Frances Kiernan