



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2015/104

Mr. Justin McCarthy
Morning Ireland,
RTÉ Newsroom,
Donnybrook,
Dublin 4.

18th November 2015

Dear Mr. McCarthy,

I refer to the request which you have made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 in which you requested details relating to:

- *All documents concerning the disposal of wine by the Department from October 2014 to the current date, 16th October 2015. To include any internal communications within the Department both prior to and subsequent to the disposal. Including any communications between officers responsible for the disposal and staff in the Minister's office and press office regarding same.*
- *All documents related to the purchase of wine by the Department in the year 2015*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 3 November 2015.

The Department holds a stock of wine for use in relation to State and Official hospitality. The stock facilitates provision of wines suitable for official events at a significant discount from the cost of purchasing them from caterers at the time they are required. In line with expenditure practices overall in the Department, the purchase of new stock is assessed carefully and kept under continuing review to ensure value for money.

In relation to your request for *All documents concerning the disposal of wine by the Department from October 2014 to the current date, 16th October 2015. To include any internal communications within the Department both prior to and subsequent to the disposal. Including any communications between officers responsible for the disposal and staff in the Minister's office and press office regarding same*, I have identified one record which falls within the scope of your request.

In relation to your request for *All documents related to the purchase of wine by the Department in the year 2015*, I have identified 22 records which fall within the scope of your request. In the period to 16th October, wine was purchased to cover receptions hosted by the Department, involving costs of €10 or less per bottle. Purchases in the period in question



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involved stock to the value of €4849.44. In the period, 45 events were organised in this Department. These events supported the work of the Department and Government on priorities such as the advancement of reconciliation and cooperation, the promotion of Ireland's values and priorities on global themes, the promotion of Ireland's bilateral relations on political and economic interests, as well as cultural events with an international dimension.

My decisions in relation to the records are detailed in the schedule below.

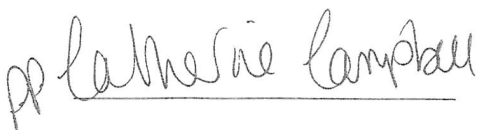
SCHEDULE – FOI Request 15/104			
Record Description		Granted/Part-Granted/Refused	Section exempted under:
1.	Documents relating to the sale of wine from October 2014 to 16 th October 2015	Part Granted	Section 36 (1) (b)
2.	Documents with invoices, relating to the purchase of wine from 1 st January 2015 to 16 th October 2015	Granted	

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. 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 or 01-4082857.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) of 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 this Department.

Yours sincerely,



Valerie A. Behan