



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

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

3 February, 2016

Mr. Gordon Deegan,

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2016/001

Dear Mr. Deegan,

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, in which you requested:

**The total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs on capital/refurbishment works on the country's network of embassies in 2015.**

**A breakdown in the costs of the refurbishment works at the five embassies where the capital/refurbishment costs were highest in 2015.**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

I have identified two records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant both records. The records being released to you are an extract from the accounts of this Department, referencing maintenance works carried out at the Department's Missions.

Expenditure on refurbishment, renovation and construction work on our missions abroad in 2015 amounted to €2,665,842.01. These properties are utilised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in pursuit of its goals on behalf of the State. They consist of offices and official residences of Ambassadors which provide platforms for our Missions to promote Ireland's economic interests, provide services to the public and represent Ireland in international organisations. Refurbishment of these properties becomes necessary over time in order to maintain a suitable representational standard.

Regarding the enclosed records, capital and maintenance costs in Zagreb, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Bangkok and Austin relate to the opening of Ireland's new missions in those locations. In January 2014 the Government agreed an expansion of the state's diplomatic and consular network abroad to include five new embassies and three new consulates to be established in locations across South East Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas. The

expansion of the network is specifically designed to maximise potential in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and educational exchanges, all of which will be the drivers of economic growth into the next generation. The network of missions abroad now stands at 80 which is smaller than many similar-sized countries with which we must compete such as Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

The majority of the costs at our Permanent Representation in Brussels relate to the relocation of the Chancery of our Embassy to Belgium to our Permanent Representation to the European Union.

All refurbishment and maintenance at missions must be sanctioned by the Department's Facilities Management Unit, and conducted in line with the Department's procurement obligations under Government public tendering and contracting rules, including both National and EU Public Procurement thresholds.

**Right of Appeal**

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so by 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@dfa.ie](mailto:foi@dfa.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,



Alan Farrelly  
Facilities Management Unit  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade