

Telefón }  
Telephone } 01 4780822



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

Tagairt }  
reference }

Baile Átha Cliath 2  
Dublin 2

Mr. Mark Hilliard  
The Irish Times  
24-28 Tara Street  
Dublin 2

30 November 2015

**Our Ref:** FoI/Req/15/018

Dear Mr. Hilliard

I refer to your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information Act in which you requested the following records:

- (a) A breakdown of all arrests/detentions/criminal charges/court appearances of Irish citizens in foreign jurisdictions from 2010 to 2014 (inclusive) as brought to the attention of the department.
- (b) The breakdown should include number of people, gender, ages, countries in which their cases occurred, nature of (alleged) crime/offence, status of custody as of present time. I am aware of the confidentiality of departmental dealings in such circumstances and am satisfied to have identities redacted or omitted.
- (c) Copy of all correspondence, memos, emails, reports and/or briefing papers held by the department within the last two years relating to the issue of Irish citizens arrested or processed through foreign criminal justice systems (individual identifying content to be omitted).

In reply to parts (a) and (b) attached spreadsheets shows the numbers and countries where citizens were arrested and imprisoned in foreign jurisdictions from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2014, that were brought to this Department's attention. The records show the number of new cases per year, with cases that continue over a number of years recorded in the year they came to our attention. Please note that the system records cases in one category only, either arrest or imprisonment. The information held is not broken down by the number of detentions, criminal charges, court appearances, genders, age, nature of (alleged) crime/offence and status of custody.

As discussed with you, we have one record in relation to Section (c), a guidance note on arrests which is also attached.

## **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) 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



Margaret Carton  
Margaret Carton  
Consular Assistance