

AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Riverstone House

23-27 Henry Street

Limerick

4th September 2015

Mr. Jerry Cunningham,
TV Current Affairs,
RTE,
Donnybrook,
Dublin 4.

Our Ref: FoI/Req/15/066

Dear Mr Cunningham,

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 breakdown on all spending on outsourced professional services (consultants) since March 2011.

This should include the name of the external service provider, the amount, the service provided, the year and if captured – whether or not the contract was the subject of a tender/competitive process.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 22nd July 2015.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for two Votes, Vote 28 (Foreign Affairs and Trade) and Vote 27 (International Cooperation). The Department engages a range of external service providers and expert consultants in a number of areas where the required skills are not available in-house and it is more cost-effective to source these expert services externally.

The tables attached include details of the expenditure on all external service providers from 2011 to the July 2015 in respect of Vote 28 (Foreign Affairs and Trade) and of Vote 27 (International Cooperation). Details of the services provided are also included.

These services are procured by open competitive tender in accordance with EU and national rules and comply with the overall value for money objective of the Department. This is particularly relevant in relation to the external services engaged for the independent monitoring and evaluation of Ireland's programme of overseas development assistance, Irish Aid and to provide expert service outside the Departments regular scope of business like ICT project and services and Department auditing.

The level of expenditure on external service is constantly monitored to ensure that it does not exceed the level required to provide services to manage, oversee, monitor, evaluate and audit programmes and projects in the Department.

I am the deciding officer for your request. In our discussion on this request, you agreed that the correspondence for all files from 2011 to 2015 was not required.

To fully meet your request I have prepared two records (one for Vote 27 and one for Vote 28) that fall within the scope of your request. I have granted you access to all two of these records.

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) 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



John Histon
Finance and Procurement Division.
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade