



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

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

15 December 2016

Cormac McQuinn  
Irish Independent  
Independent House  
27 -32 Talbot Street  
Dublin 1

**Our Ref: FoI/Req/2016/164**

Dear Mr McQuinn

I refer to my colleague Frances Kieran's acknowledgement letter of the 29th of November 2016 in relation to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, in which you requested:

**“Details of all expenditure on goods and services between €500 and €1,000 by Irish Aid in 2015 and From January 1 to October 19, 2016.**

**The Information should show which Irish Aid Office – at home or abroad – incurred the expenditure, the dates of expenditure, itemised detailed of the goods or services purchased and the cost of each, and the names of the company/individuals providing the service”**

I have decided to grant your request and the data is contained in the table attached.

Irish Aid, the Irish Government's programme for development co-operation, which is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, focuses on the fight against poverty and hunger through the provision of funding for sustainable development programmes and initiatives in some of the poorest countries in the world. The aid programme is at the heart of our foreign policy. Next year, the Government has allocated a total of over €650 million to Official Development Assistance. Almost €486 million will be administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade while a further estimated €165 million is allocated through other Government Departments and Ireland's share allocation of the EU Development Cooperation Budget.

Ireland's aid programme is strongly focused on poverty reduction, hunger eradication and building resilience through addressing fundamental human needs such as food security provision of basic education, primary health care and a safe water supply. Assistance to sub-Saharan Africa is the priority geographic region, as are measures to counter food insecurity and hunger, investment in education, health, the fight against HIV/AIDS, good governance and efforts to promote gender equality. The Irish Aid programme is considered to be highly effective, particularly in terms of its impact on reducing poverty and delivering real and sustainable results to the lives of some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable citizens.



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In Irish Aid priority countries our Embassies have significant programme management responsibilities in addition to economic and cultural promotion; frontline consular and passport services and engaging with Irish communities. For our Missions abroad St. Patrick's Day presents an unrivalled opportunity to showcase Ireland abroad; it is unique in the world in terms of its reach.

Irish Aid operates in some of the most challenging environments in the world. In accordance with the Department's procurement procedures the acquisition of goods and services is done by competitive tender and the Department is constantly focused on the achievement of value for money. The Department has a duty of care to its staff and the public to ensure that buildings, vehicles and equipment are maintained to a safe standard and ensure essential communication links. Often in these challenging environments it can be difficult to access the relevant goods and services resulting in increased costs.

**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

Neil McDonough  
Finance Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade