



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

Mr. Adam Higgins

Our Ref: Fol/Req/16/158

07 November, 2016

Dear Mr. Higgins,

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:

- “.. 1. The amount of money the Government spends on rent every month for the Irish embassy in Atlanta? How much money does the Government pay Consul General Shane Stephens a year?**
- 2. The amount of money the Government spends on rent every month for the Irish embassy in Austin? How much money does the Government pay Consul General Adrian Farrell a year?**
- 3. The amount of money the Government spends on rent every month for the Irish embassy in Boston? How much money does the Government pay Consul General Fionnuala Quinlan a year?**
- 4. The amount of money the Government spends on rent every month for the Irish embassy in Chicago? How much money does the Government pay Consul General Orla McBreen?**
- 5. The amount of money the Government spends on rent every month for the Irish embassy in New York? How much money does the Government pay Consul General Barbara Jones?**
- 6. The amount of money the Government spends on rent every month for the Irish embassy in San Francisco? How much money does the Government pay Consul General Philip Grant?”**

I am the responding officer to your request.

1. Rents paid for our Consul General offices in the US

At the outset, I would like to clarify that the Embassy of Ireland in the United States is located in Washington DC. The offices you refer to as embassies in your request - in Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, New York and San Francisco – are in fact Consulates, which work with the Embassy to promote Irish interests in different areas of the United States.

All of our missions abroad, be they embassies or consulates, perform a wide range of functions in pursuit of Ireland's foreign policy interests including advancing government policies in particular with the EU and the UN; economic, trade and cultural promotion; showcasing Irish goods and services, and providing frontline consular services to Irish citizens overseas.

The consulates in Atlanta and Austin are recent expansions of the Department's diplomatic network in the USA, which is specifically designed to support Ireland's foreign trade and inward investment maximising potential in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and educational exchanges, all of which will be the drivers of economic growth.

These two locations were selected on the basis of where they would have the greatest impact and the greatest potential to deliver in terms of the State's economic and policy interests.

You will find details of the monthly rents paid along with some explanatory notes in the record provided.

2. Salaries paid to our Consuls General in the US

The majority of our Consuls-General in the USA are at First Secretary / Assistant Principal Officer grade and one is at Counsellor/ Principal Officer grade.

The Civil Service salary scales are set by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and are as follows:

- First Secretary / Assistant Principal Officer Standard Scale Higher, which ranges from €65,000 to €79,552.
- Counsellor/Principal Officer Higher Scale, which ranges from €81,080 to €98,995.

Pay scales for established officers appointed on or after the 6th April 1995:

- First Secretary / Assistant Principal Officer Standard Scale, which ranges from €65,000 to €76,224.
- First Secretary /Assistant Principal Officer Higher Scale, which ranges from €67,434 to €83,510.

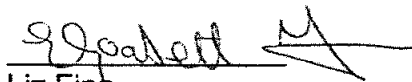
All our diplomats are civil servants; they are paid by the State and, as PAYE workers, are subject to the normal tax and social security obligations of civil servants. Posted officials also receive foreign service allowances, which are dependent on their location and personal circumstances.

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



Liz Finn
Architectural Services Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade