



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2017/219

Date 29th November 2017.

Dear Mr. Foxe,

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 following:

Copies of the invoices associated with the following transactions from 2014:

1. A6CAPMAINT DFA PREMISES - MAJOR MAINT 05/02/2014 Property Management Unit €54,863.82
2. A6CAPMAINT DFA PREMISES - MAJOR MAINT 18/06/2014 Property Management Unit €220,290.18
3. A6CAPMAINT DFA PREMISES - MAJOR MAINT 26/08/2014 Property Management Unit €43,556.31
4. A6MAINT OTHER REPAIRS & MINOR MAINTENANCE-INCL CONTRACTS 31/12/2014 Property Management Unit €150,588.34
5. A6MAJORMNT RENTED PREMISES - MAJOR MAINTENANCE ONLY 19/09/2014 Property Management Unit €57,247.59
6. A6MAJORMNT RENTED PREMISES - MAJOR MAINTENANCE ONLY 24/09/2014 Property Management Unit €48,675.97
7. A6MAJORMNT RENTED PREMISES - MAJOR MAINTENANCE ONLY 09/10/2014 Property Management Unit €48,073.74
8. A6MAJORMNT RENTED PREMISES - MAJOR MAINTENANCE ONLY 12/12/2014 Property Management Unit €85,241.87
9. A6MAJORMNT RENTED PREMISES - MAJOR MAINTENANCE ONLY 24/12/2014 Property Management Unit €49,035.29
10. A6MAJORMNT RENTED PREMISES - MAJOR MAINTENANCE ONLY 24/12/2014 Property Management Unit €87,990.82
11. A6MAJORMNT RENTED PREMISES - MAJOR MAINTENANCE ONLY 30/12/2014 Property Management Unit €75,645.92

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 15th November 2017.

I have identified 10 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant access to 10 of the records.

There is no invoice associated with item number four as listed above, this was an internal accounting adjustment. This is a correction on the account of items charged to the wrong code and is carried out by our Finance Division. Items can be charged to the wrong code for a number of reasons; staff changes unfamiliar with the system, changes in the nature of work

minor to major. These code changes were made to multiple transactions but they do not change the overall spend.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade carries out elective works on its state owned and leased properties in Ireland and overseas, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our buildings. These works are normally to improve the security of a building, to address health and safety issues or to improve the effectiveness and use of space.

These properties are utilised by the Department in pursuit of its goals on behalf of the State. They consist of offices and official accommodation which provide platforms for our Missions to promote Ireland's political, economic and cultural interests and values, provide services to our citizens, develop strategic stakeholder relationships and represent Ireland in international organisations.

The Irish network of missions abroad is smaller than many similar-sized countries such as Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

Record number 1 relates to the removal of hazardous materials as part of a refurbishment of the Department's premises in Paris.

Record number 2 relates to the development of the Department's Consular Office premises in Paris, to further increase capacity in these offices.

Record number 3 relates to the cost of installing a cooling and ventilation system in our premises in Belfast.

Record number 4 relates to the relocation/refurbishment costs of the 2nd Floor of DFAT Offices in Molesworth Street to increase capacity in this public office, necessitated by the move of DFAT Consular Services from Hainault House to Molesworth Street.

Record number 5 relates to the refurbishment of the Department's premises in London.

Record number 6 relates to Phase 1 of the work of amalgamating the Embassy of Ireland to Belgium and the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU in Brussels.

Record number 7 relates to replacement of the heating system/purchase of boilers for the Department's premises in Paris.

Records number 8 – 10 relate to refurbishment works of the mission in Beijing. Refurbishment works in Beijing are carried out by DSB, Chinese state body administering property used by Diplomatic Missions.

Record 8 called 'Quotation' is as a result of a bad translation and is an invoice. Records 9 & 10 are the payment certificates, which act as the invoices for works carried out by DSB and their contractors Aojie Building and Decoration remodelling company Ltd.

As part of the Department's duty of care to staff, their families and visitors to our buildings for meetings and functions, the Department must ensure that security and health and safety

standards are met, as well as universal access facilities. The Department maintains appropriate health, safety and security standards in its properties overseas while also implementing any additional international standards in the location in question, as necessary.

Given the varied global locations, currency fluctuations, possible higher local costs, and the need for expert advice and specialist contractors, the expenditures associated with construction services will differ from location to location.

All refurbishment and maintenance at missions is 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 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@dfa.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, 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



