



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

Property Management Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
76-78 Harcourt St
Dublin 2

Mr Ken Foxe
Right to Know

16th August 2017

Re : FOI request FOI/Req/17/137 Ken Foxe

Dear Mr Foxe,

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:

"..copies of all records, receipts, invoices and so on held by your Department regarding the refurbishment of two bathrooms at the Berne ambassadorial residence in 2016. "

I have identified 13 records which fall within the scope of your request and I have agreed to release 12 in full and part-granted 1. (Where part of a record relates to matters outside of your request, I have not included this information.)

Records 5 has been part-granted under Section 36 -commercially sensitive information. In examining the record I have taken the public interest into account, inter alia, the need to achieve openness, transparency and accountability in decision-making. I have balanced the public interest in ensuring this Department is accountable for all monies spent with the interests of suppliers of services to the Department. To ensure the companies concerned would not be unduly impeded in the effective pursuit of their business, I have decided the wider public interest is best served by refusing access to certain to commercial information.

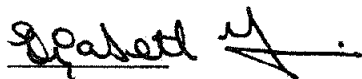
The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade manages a network of 80 missions abroad and currently manages and maintains 34 State-owned properties overseas. These properties are utilised by the Department in pursuit of its goals on behalf of the State. They consist of offices and official accommodation 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. Given the varied global locations, currency fluctuations, possible higher local costs, and the need for expert advice and specialist contractors, the expenditures associated with furniture will differ from location to location. However, all refurbishment and maintenance at missions are sanctioned by the Department's Property Management Unit. 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. All goods and services are procured 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 St, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Finn', with a stylized flourish to the right.

Liz Finn

PMU
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
76-78 Harcourt St
Dublin 2