



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/19/081

March 5, 2019

Dear Requester,

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:

'I note from a Press Release of 17 October 2018, that the Tánaiste and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney T.D. had announced additional funding of € 700,000 to UNFPA, at the launch of the Funds's The State of World Population 2018 report. I would be obliged if you would let me know (a) The specific reason for this additional grant and (b) The specific authority compelling the Tánaiste and Minister Simon Coveney to make this payment.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on February 12, 2019.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides support to UNFPA mainly through core funding to UNFPA Headquarters as well as through bilateral partnerships at country level. Ireland is a consistent supporter of UNFPA.

As a champion of multilateralism, it is vital that countries like Ireland - and others - adhere to their principles in supporting UN agencies like UNFPA. UNFPA enable Ireland to deliver on significant global commitments on maternal and reproductive health care. Core funding allows organisations to set their priorities and plan according to need which is critical to the on-the-ground delivery of results.

In October 2018, to coincide with the Irish launch of UNFPA's annual State of the World Report hosted by the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), the Tánaiste announced our intention to increase the core funding of UNFPA by €700,000 subject to available resources. This additional contribution demonstrates the value which Ireland places on the work of UNFPA.

UNFPA has suffered from reduced funding in recent years and States have been encouraged to increase their contributions. The rationale for the increase in funding was based on the long term strategic nature of the partnership with UNFPA, aligned to our international development policy. This additional funding request was included in the 2018

Supplementary Budget presented to and approved by the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence. The funds were released in December 2018. This funding was approved and allocated in line with standard departmental grant management procedures.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Clements', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jill Clements