



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2019/251

27/09/2019

Dear Mr Blaney,

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:

A breakdown relating to the spend on 'small household items costing €300,000¹ for 150 locations' for DFA staff posted abroad or overseas in 2018. (The above information in quotes was given to me by the DFA press office on Aug 15th)

These to include, but not be limited to:

Details of the value of purchases by location in tabular form for the 150 locations

Details of the items purchased in each of the 150 locations.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on the 26th of August 2019.

I have identified 1 record that fall within the scope of your request. I have made a decision to grant this record. The record is listed in the schedule attached.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade currently manages and maintains properties to support the foreign policy of Ireland. 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. Official premises serve as a showcase for Irish arts, crafts and products. The network of missions abroad is smaller than many similar-sized countries such as Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

Each Mission's annual budget includes a Small Household Items budget from which to fund minor maintenance and repairs and minor purchases of furniture, equipment and similar small items under €1,000. The allocation covers State-provided offices and official

¹ The information presented in this request has excluded expenses not proper to household items

representational accommodation at a particular mission. The arrangement is intended to facilitate the early resolution of mission's minor accommodation-related problems.

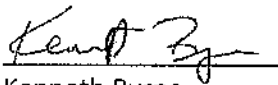
The items include small furniture items and electrical goods, fridges, washing machines and other white goods, minor repairs, small catering equipment and goods, maintenance equipment, decoration, general office items, glassware, cutlery and crockery, small items for display, storage, small air conditioning and humidifiers units, signage, sanitary ware, items for promotional and representational events, minor security and health and safety equipment.

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.

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



Kenneth Byrne
Property Management Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade