



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/329

20 December 2019

Dear Mr Farrell

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 full breakdown of the costs borne by the state with creating the new Irish Embassies opened in Wellington, Bogotá, Amman, Monrovia and Santiago de Chile; and new Consulates General in Vancouver, Mumbai, Cardiff, Los Angeles and Frankfurt.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 26 November 2019 (Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/329).

I have identified one record that falls within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant the record in full.

In addition to the record listed I am also providing below a brief overview of the expansion below which may provide some further context for your request. All of the newly opened missions include the assignment of 2 diplomatic staff from Headquarters who are supported by a small number of locally hired staff. The opening of these small but effective offices is part of *'Global Ireland, Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025'*. The ambitious plan aims to double the scope and impact of Ireland's international presence by 2025. The plan is centred around a 'Team Ireland' concept and is a whole of Government approach to international relations which presents an image of Ireland as a good place to live, work, do business, invest and visit.

The costs include the set-up and operating costs from all 10 of the New Missions from 2018 and 2019. The benefits arising for Ireland from the opening of the new missions include the opportunity to grow our trade and inward investment; strengthen political relationships with our partners and promote Ireland's values; play a more active role in supporting and promoting a rules based international environment; and to provide support to Irish citizens and our diaspora abroad.

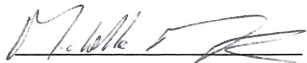
All of the new missions are located in countries that present significant opportunities for Irish business and interests and the expansion will continue into 2020 with the opening of new Embassies in Kyiv, Manila and Rabat.

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



Michelle Murphy
Strategy, Governance and Change Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade