



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2020/196

Eamonn Patterson

17 November 2020

Dear Mr. Patterson,

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:

The amount of funding the Department have provided to each Irish Honorary Consul towards the cost of office expenses etc. in the years 2019 and 2020 in tabular form.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 28th October 2020.

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

The functions, privileges and immunities of Honorary Consuls are set out in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963. While their roles and functions vary, our Honorary Consuls are generally appointed to provide consular assistance and services to Irish citizens in their area of accreditation. They also act as a focal point for the local Irish community, particularly where we have no resident mission. Many Honorary Consuls also assist with trade and cultural promotion, in consultation with their supervising mission.

Due to Ireland's modest network of Embassies and Consulates, our Honorary Consuls provide a vital and cost-effective support across this range of government priorities, especially in providing emergency consular assistance and services to our citizens. In particular, they help us to meet the needs of our citizens in countries and regions where we do not have a resident mission. Honorary Consuls play a critical role in assisting our citizens in crisis situations, and were an integral part of the Department's global consular response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The appointment of an Honorary Consul is an honorary one, unsalaried and non-pensionable. Honorary Consuls are entitled to claim for some costs incurred as part of their service delivery. In a very limited number of cases, where the consular workload has been

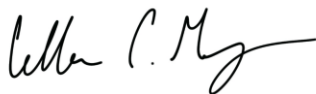
particularly high or where Honorary Consuls have undertaken to provide particular additional services, and where this funding model would have been insufficient to meet these costs, additional funding has been provided by the Department. The attached record details the expenses claimed by Honorary Consuls and any additional funding provided, in the year 2019 and to the end of October 2020.

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, (€10 for medical card holders). A copy of the medical card should be provided to avail of the reduced fee. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01-4082618.

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,



Cellena Connolly-Moynihan

Consular Directorate