



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs**

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/104

Date: 4 June 2021

Dear Ken 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:

**Under the FOI Act 2014, I am seeking the following:**

**- a spreadsheet/database/table of all costs associated with the opening/fitout of new diplomatic buildings in Vancouver, Wellington, and Mumbai. To include a line-by-line item list of expenditure according to item, category, cost etc.**

**I would prefer to receive this information electronically, ideally in its original electronic format.**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 17 May 2021.

I have identified 3 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant all 3 of the records.

By way of background information, I wish to let you know that in different locations, different rules apply to Diplomatic bodies in relation to the payment of local or state taxes. In many cases the figures in the records provided do not take account of VAT or local taxes that may have been paid out but claimed back at a later stage, so may not reflect the true cost.

In Mumbai the costs for the fit-out of the new Ireland House are shared between the Department and the commercial state agencies, Enterprises Ireland and the IDA on a pro-rata basis. The figures in the records are paid out by the Department and recouped from the state agencies after completion of the works.

It may be of interest to you to know that the Embassy network worldwide is used by the Department and state agencies in pursuit of its strategic goals on behalf of the State. The network provides a platform 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.

The Department must ensure that its buildings meet security and health and safety standards, as well as providing universal access facilities as part of our duty of care to staff, users and visitors to our buildings. The Department, in addition, must comply with any additional national standards/requirements in local jurisdiction obligations.

All refurbishment at Embassies are conducted 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 Street, Dublin 2 or by email to [foi@dfa.ie](mailto: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](mailto: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

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David Ormond  
FOI Section  
Department of Foreign Affairs