



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

14 /02/2018

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2018/016

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:

A data dump of the Oracle financial management system in use by the Department covering the time period 2017. This information should contain data relating only to the following subheads:

- **Travel and subsistence (A2)**
- **Training and development and incidental expenses (A3)**
- **Postal and Telecommunications Services (A4)**
- **Office equipment and external IT services (A5)**
- **Office premises expenses (A6)**
- **Consultancy services and value for money and policy reviews (A7)**
- **This should include the following column heads (i.e. fields): payment date; subhead item; cost centre; vendor name; invoice number; line description; amount.**

This request should only cover payments in excess of €5,000.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 24th January 2018.

I am the deciding officer for your request. From our files that fall within the scope of your request, the records that I am granting and in some cases part-refusing are listed in the attached schedule.

I have considered Sections 36 and 37 of the Act in making my decision not to release certain information. Access to certain commercially sensitive information is essential in order to allow the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade to execute its functions. The same would apply to certain personal information. In this case, I am satisfied that 1 payment would involve the disclosure of personal information and 212 payments are commercially sensitive at this time, the full release of which could reasonably be expected to have adverse consequences for the Department. In weighing these adverse consequences against the public interest, I have again considered the right of the public to have access to information; the need for an open, transparent and accountable civil service and the need for decision-making processes to be adequately scrutinised.

In relation to your request for invoice number and vendor name please note the following:

Invoice number is not a record that is easily extracted from our system by way of standardised reports and therefore is not included.

Vendor name is not a requirement when entering payments on our Financial System at our Missions overseas. Please note also that some HQ Cost Centre payment do not have a vendor assigned. This is because payments may have originated at an overseas Mission or it was an issue with the interface with the then service provider as above.



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The Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for two Votes – Vote 28: Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Vote 27 International Cooperation. Please find below a table detailing the total charged to each of the above subheads for 2017;

	Vote 27	Vote 28
Subhead		
	€	€
A2	19,194	1,041,214
A3	527,240	1,849,831
A4	204,994	4,714,120
A5	182,590	18,778,688
A6	1,308,247	27,780,972
A7	150,440	

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@dfat.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@dfat.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

Leo Blake