



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

Ref FOI/Req/18/019

January 29, 2018

Dear Requestor

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:

1. *(a) The number of Irish citizens who were arrested in a country other than the Republic of Ireland in for the years 2016 and 2017 broken down by country.*
(b) Any available details for each case, for example, a general classification of the charge etc.

2. *(a) How many Irish citizens are in prison in a country other than the Republic of Ireland broken down by country as of 31st December 2017?*
(b) Any available details for each, for example, a general classification for the reason of imprisonment etc.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request, which was sent to you on 29 January 2018.

In relation to Part 1 (a), the table attached details the number of Irish citizens arrested in a country other than Ireland in 2016 and 2017, where their arrest was brought to the attention of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The policy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is to provide assistance to any Irish citizen arrested, where they request such assistance.

These records detail the number of **new** cases in each year as cases are recorded only in the year that they are brought to the Department's attention. As such, the Department holds no records in relation to Part 2 (a) of your request for information.

Consular Assistance provided by this Department to Irish prisoners and detainees abroad includes facilitating contact with family and relatives at home; providing information about prison arrangements; arranging for funds sent by family or relatives to be made available to a prisoner or detainee (subject to prison regulations); seeking to ensure that a prisoner or detainee is not discriminated against in any way on account of their nationality; seeking to ensure Irish prisoners and detainees have access to appropriate legal representation; and

seeking to ensure that local authorities fulfil their obligations in relation to ensuring the health and well-being of Irish citizens in detention.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides Consular Assistance in a non-judgemental manner, irrespective of any alleged offence, and as such, the Department does not hold any records in relation to Part 1 (b) or Part 2 (b) of your request.

In relation to your request, I would also note that, in the interests of transparency, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade now regularly publishes statistics in relation to Consular Assistance at www.dfa.ie/travel/statistics/

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



Stephen Fagan

Consular Division Third Secretary