



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/280

30th November 2018

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:

“copies of the invoices/receipts associated with the following transactions:

*A2MOVE REMOVAL / STORAGE COSTS 20/07/2017 Human Resources FRANK GLENNON LTD
70000*

*A3MISC MISCELLANEOUS 22/06/2017 Compliance and Security (Mgt Serv) TAILORED IMAGE
10222.85*

*A3MISC MISCELLANEOUS 09/11/2017 Compliance and Security (Mgt Serv) TAILORED IMAGE
6587.87*

*A3CONFEEES CONFERENCE & SEMINAR FEES 13/11/2017 HR Unit, CR Unit & WPS OPW
HEADQUARTERS TRIM 33685.14*

A6FURNMOVE FURNITURE REMOVALS COSTS 24/07/2017 BEVERLY SMYTH 36863.72 “

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 15th November 2018; and our subsequent telephone conversation agreeing an extension to Friday 30th November 2018.

I have identified 5 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant three of the records and to part-grant another two.

Record 1

Record 1 is an invoice from Frank Glennon Ltd., in the amount of €70,000 and has been granted in full. This invoice relates to an insurance policy between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Frank Glennon Ltd. This insurance contract covers the removal of household goods and personal effects of officers taking up posting in missions abroad. The policy also includes goods placed in storage by these officers when going on a posting.

Records 2 and 3

Records 2 and 3 are invoices from Tailored Image Ltd. in the amounts of €10,222.85 and €5,355.99 respectively. The sums paid to Tailored Image Ltd. were in respect of uniforms purchased on behalf of the Department's Services Officers. These officers carry out a range of duties across the Department's public offices, and by the nature of their work are required to wear a uniform which is provided by the employer, on a biannual basis.

Records 2 and 3 have been part-granted. I have applied exemptions under S.35 (1), S.36 (1) (b) and S.37 (1) i.e. *information obtained in confidence, commercially sensitive information and personal information*. The material redacted includes the VAT registration number and bank details of the company concerned, along with specific uniform sizes for individual Services Officers employed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. While these exemptions under the Act are mandatory, I have also considered the public interest. The redactions do not affect the substance or detail of the information in the records, and so on balance I have decided it appropriate not to release these parts of the records.

In the case of record 3, the figure on the invoice (€5,355.99) differs from that which was provided previously (€6,587.87) in the "datadump" from the Department's financial management system. As the company concerned, Tailored Image Ltd., is based in Tyrone, both invoices were, accordingly, issued exclusive of VAT. However, the invoices were subject to Irish VAT in line with Revenue regulations. In these circumstances, the rate and amount of VAT payable in each case is calculated in the Department's Finance Division and paid over to the Revenue Commissioners. In this particular instance the amount remitted in VAT, at the same time as the invoice was paid, was €1,231.88.

In respect of Record 2, the sum on the "datadump" and on the invoice are the same i.e. €10,222.85. VAT payable on this invoice was calculated in the usual way but remitted at a later date and the VAT element appears, therefore, as a later and separate payment in the Department's financial management system. The amount remitted in VAT to the Revenue Commissioners in this case was €2,451.06, bringing the total cost to €12,673.91.

Record 4

Record 4 is an invoice for the amount of €33,685.14, relating to the costs associated with the hosting by Ireland of the 31st Plenary Meeting of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in October 2017, under the auspices of Ireland's co-Chairmanship of the MTCR in 2017/2018. This record has been released in full.

Ireland and Iceland co-chaired the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) for a one year term during the period 2017-2018. The costs of the co-Chairmanship were shared between Ireland and Iceland. This invoice relates to the costs associated with the hosting, in Dublin, of the 31st Plenary Meeting of MTCR in October 2017. This particular invoice relates to venue hire and technical equipment for this conference, over four days of meetings and was paid in full by Ireland.

The MTCR is an informal and voluntary association of 35 countries which promote efforts to limit the spread of missile systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction. Assuming the role of co-Chair of the MTCR in 2017/2018 enabled Ireland to further demonstrate its long-standing commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation, which is one of Ireland's signature foreign policy priorities. The plenary meeting was formally opened by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign

Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney TD, and it marked the beginning of Ireland Co-Chairmanship of the regime (together with Iceland). More than 250 experts from 35 countries met at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin, where they explored further measures to strengthen existing export control regimes to prevent the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Record 5

Record 5 is an invoice for €36,863.72 from Beverly Smyth, and has been part-granted. The record has been redacted to remove the VAT registration number and bank details of the company under S. 35 (1) (a) and S. 36 (1) (b). Again, while these are mandatory exemptions, I have considered the public interest in reaching my decision. The redaction of this information does not affect the detail or substance of the material in the record, and so on balance, I have decided not to release these details.


The invoice concerned was for the hire of 454 crates for the period November 2015 to July 2017 to hold and store official files and documents, during the move of the Passport Office from its previous location in Molesworth Street to its current premises in Mount Street, on a phased basis.

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



Noeleen Curran
Freedom of Information Officer