



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2014/100

Mr. Luke Byrne  
Independent News and Media,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Independent House,  
27/32 Talbot Street,  
Dublin 1

8<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear Mr. Byrne,

I refer to the request which you have made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this Department in which you requested:

- *Details of all gifts received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who they were from and the approximate value, from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.*
- *Details of all gifts given by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who they were for and the approximate value, from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.*

In keeping with the usual protocol attached to Ministerial and other international high-level visits, the presentation of representative small tokens of appreciation is normal practice. A decision is made on the type and value of the item to be presented following consultation to ensure it respects the culture of the recipient and any ethics requirements. These items are sourced in Ireland or are of Irish interest. A list of items presented since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 by successive Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Trade to foreign dignitaries is attached.

Under section 15 of the Ethics in Public Office Act (1995) gifts presented to office holders valued in excess of €650 are deemed to be gifts to the State and must be recorded accordingly following valuation through the Office of Public Works. No such gifts were received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade in the period under review, that is, since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. As there is no requirement to retain lists of token gifts of the type customarily presented to officeholders of this Department, your request for "details of all

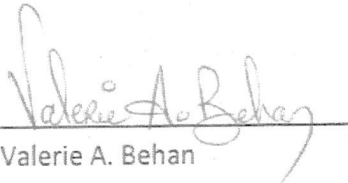
*gifts received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who they were from and the approximate value, from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012" falls to be refused under Section 10(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act – the record does not exist.*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:foi@dfat.ie) or 01-4082857.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) of 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 this Department.

Yours sincerely,



Valerie A. Behan  
Protocol Division