



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**  
**Baile Átha Cliath 2**

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**  
**Dublin 2**

Niall O'Connor  
Irish Independent Newsroom  
Independent House  
27-32 Talbot Street  
Dublin 1

Our Ref: FoI/Req/14/103

15/12/2014

I refer to your request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this Department. I am pleased to provide you with a report detailing a breakdown of all costs associated with running all Irish Embassies abroad including the exact cost relating to staff, administration, security, etc of each embassy from 01/01/14-17/11/14.

Ireland's diplomatic network currently comprises of 61 Embassies, 7 multilateral missions and 12 Consulates General and other offices. Through them, we maintain diplomatic relations with 176 states.

The overall gross estimate for Vote 27 International Co-Operation in 2014 is €479m and for Vote 28 Foreign Affairs is 212m.

Our embassies' work in support of Ireland's foreign policy interests include:

- Promoting investment in Ireland and supporting Irish businesses to expand overseas
- Providing frontline consular assistance and passport services to Irish citizens overseas
- Promoting Ireland as a tourism destination and promoting Ireland's culture abroad;
- Representing and advancing Ireland's policies and interests with other states and in international organisations
- Engaging with and supporting Irish communities abroad
- Managing Ireland's overseas development programmes in Ireland's key partner countries.

We work closely with the State agencies, including Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Bord Bia and Tourism Ireland, to support trade missions, directly assist Irish companies with advice and introductions and we work to resolve regulatory or market access issues.

Staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade promote Ireland as a destination for investment and lobby and negotiate for Ireland on issues that could impact our economic interests: whether that's on trade policy, taxation issues or other crucial issues.

In responding to the severe economic and financial crisis which has affected Ireland in recent years, the Embassy network has played a particularly important role in repairing and enhancing our reputation and promoting economic recovery.

In 2013, the Embassy network supported a total of 136 high-level visits with a significant economic or promotional dimension across 52 countries.

These included 18 Ministerial-led Enterprise Ireland trade missions involving Irish companies, as well as a range of other overseas Ministerial visits designed to drive job growth at home by increasing trade and investment opportunities in mature and high growth markets.

Recent examples of the contribution the Embassy network makes overseas in support of Irish trade, in cooperation with the relevant Departments and State agencies, include the lifting of a ban on Irish beef exports to Japan, opening up a market potentially worth €15m annually.

#### 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) 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



Gerry Gleeson  
Accountant – Finance Division