



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/15011

Mr Cormac McQuinn
3rd Floor
Independent House
27/32 Talbot Street
Dublin1

17 February 2015

Dear Mr McQuinn

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. The total expenditure on photography by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from January 1st to December 31st 2014. Please include a schedule of events, both domestic and foreign, for which a photographer was hired as well as copies of invoices submitted by the photographers/agencies.*
- 2. Digital copies of all photographs taken by professional photographers hired by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2014.*
- 3. The total expenditure on professional video/film makers by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from January 1st to December 31st 2014. Please include a schedule of events, both domestic and foreign, for which the video/filmmaker was hired as well as copies of invoices submitted by them or their agencies.*
- 4. DVD copies of any videos commissioned by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2014.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 26th January 2015. I am the deciding officer in this case.

By way of background the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade includes headquarters in Dublin, spread over seven locations, and offices in Cork and Limerick. The Department also manages a total of 80 overseas missions consisting of 61 Embassies, 7 multilateral missions, and 12 Consulates General. With regard to the use of professional photographers the Department avails of the services of external photographic agencies where it is warranted, in particular, for major events and State occasions. This is a service which the Department provides so that the media can easily and freely

avail of photography where their own staff photographers cannot be fully accommodated. Events such as the visit of the President of Mozambique, the visit of the Thai Royal Family and the Presidential Distinguished Service Awards resulted in positive coverage of Ireland.

In September 2011, the Department led a collaborative advertised tender process for the procurement of a multi-supplier competitive framework of photographic service providers. This is now available for use by all Government Departments. Details of the framework arrangements and the photographers used are posted on the National Procurement Service website:

www.procurement.ie/suppliers/contracts/1298. The purpose of this framework is to ensure Departments' compliance with EU procurement rules and to ensure value for money by having a competitive process for photographic assignments.

In addition, the Department now makes greater use of in-house resources for photography, including, for example, at the Irish-Africa Economic Forum in October 2014.

From the financial management system of the Department I have identified 73 records that fall within the scope of parts 1. and 3. of your request. I have granted you access to all 73 of these records and they are listed in the attached schedule. In the second column of the schedule I have included a short description of the events concerned. I have also included a spreadsheet of expenditure which you may find helpful. You also requested digital copies of all photographs and DVD copies of all videos commissioned. Many of the photographs are already in the public domain as they were distributed through the news desks of various media companies and others are publicly accessible on many of the Department's websites and through the Department's social media accounts and/or on other websites. Where I am aware that this is the case I have indicated it in the schedule. You should be able to access relevant mission websites through www.dfa.ie where you will also find links to their social media. One of the videos is publicly available on *YouTube* and for ease of reference the title of the video is included in the schedule. A second video is still at production stage and is not yet available. With regard to other photographs and videos I would be grateful if you could contact me so we can discuss access.

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.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Kiernan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Frances Kiernan
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