



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

27th November 2015

Mark O'Regan,
Irish Independent,
Independent House,
27-32 Talbot Street,
Dublin 1.

Our Ref: FoI/Req/15/105

Dear Mr. O'Regan,

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:

All correspondents concerning laptop, external hard drives or any electronic device belonging to your Department which has been lost in the each of the past three years, and which contain personal information relating to members of the public, or businesses your Department has dealings with. I am seeking all records concerning the above matter, including when they went missing, and whether they were lost or stolen.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 13/11/2015.

I have made a decision to grant access to all of the information requested which is included in the attached spreadsheets.

Mobile devices are issued by the Department for the sole purpose of remote access to the Department's network and appropriate applications. No personal information relating to members of the public or businesses is installed on mobile devices. The Department issues strict guidelines to all officers on the appropriate use of IT equipment, highlighting the obligations arising under the Data Protection Act. All laptops and USB drives are encrypted and secured via strong password. All smart phones and tablets are managed by a Mobile device Management platform that enables devices to be wiped remotely. The Department remotely wipes any phones/tablets that are reported lost/stolen immediately. The SIM PINs are set on all standard mobile phones.

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.

Yours sincerely,


Nuala Courtney