



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

Ken Foxe

Our Ref: Fol/Req/16/141

24 October, 2016

Dear Mr. Foxe,

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 associated with the following 2015 transactions and a brief explanation of the work involved in each of these pieces of major maintenance.’

A6MAJORMNT	17/09/2015	€210639.80
A6MAJORMNT	19/11/2015	€133944.50
A6MAJORMNT	18/08/2015	€131022.40
A6MAJORMNT	04/09/2015	€93913.25
A6MAJORMNT	28/04/2015	€89015.20

I am the responding officer and I have decided to grant you access to the records as outlined in the attached schedule.

In 2014 the Government agreed an expansion of the State's diplomatic and consular network abroad to include five new embassies and three new consulates in locations across South East Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas. The expansion of the network was specifically designed to support Ireland's foreign trade and inward investment maximising potential in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and educational exchanges, all of which will be the drivers of economic growth.

Locations for missions were identified on the basis of where they would have the greatest impact and the greatest potential to deliver in terms of the State's economic and policy interests.

Our missions abroad perform a wide range of functions in pursuit of Ireland's foreign policy interests including advancing government policies in particular with the EU and the UN; economic, trade and cultural promotion; showcasing Irish goods and services, and providing frontline consular services to Irish citizens overseas. Officers at Headquarters and missions engaged in purchasing of goods, services or works must always have regard to value for money considerations when obtaining the most advantageous price available consistent with quality and fitness for purpose.

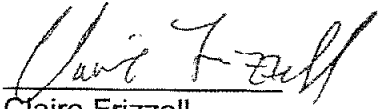
Item 1	17/09/2015 €210639.80	Establishment of a Chancery premises in Hong Kong required renovations to the office space acquired. Work was tendered and Invoice 1 relates to these renovations.
Item 2	19/11/2015 €133944.50	Payment relates to changes made to the chancery building of the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU\Brussels, to accommodate the relocation of the Embassy to the same building. Invoice 2 relates to same.
Item 3	18/08/2015 €131022.40	Establishment of a Chancery premises in Bangkok required renovations to the office space acquired. Work was tendered and Invoice 3 & Invoice 4 relate to these renovations.
Item 4	04/09/2015 €93913.25	Establishment of a Chancery premises in Bangkok required renovations to the office space acquired. Work was tendered and Invoice 5 & Invoice 6 relate to these renovations.
Item 5	28/04/2015 €89015.20	Establishment of a Chancery premises in Bangkok required renovations to the office space acquired. Work was tendered and Invoice 7 relates to these renovations.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claire Frizzell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Claire Frizzell
Architectural Services Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade