



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

Our Ref: FoI/Req 2020/200

26 November 2020

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:

Under the FOI Act 2014, I am seeking the following:

- a copy of all invoices/receipts associated with the renovation of the Ambassadorial residence in Lisbon, Portugal which took place in recent years.
- a copy of the business case/design brief relating to the above project.
- an information note on the project should that prove convenient for the department to provide.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request, which was sent to you on 2nd November 2020.

There are 28 records, which fall within the scope of your request and they are listed in the attached schedule. I refer to previous correspondence re limiting the search to electronic record only at this time. I am granting 3 records and part granting 25 records. Where records are part granted information has been redacted under Section 36 (1) (b). The information redacted is bank account numbers.

All records relate to required works at the State owned Official Accommodation and representational space in Lisbon. This involved works on the roof, security works, fire safety upgrading, universal access and maintenance works necessary for creating a safe environment.

The Embassy and Consulate network facilitates the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to pursue its goals and policies on behalf of the State. The diplomatic network consists of offices and official accommodation in more than 90 locations worldwide, which provide platforms for our Missions to promote Ireland's political, economic and cultural interests and values, provide various services to our citizens including consular assistance, develop strategic stakeholder relationships and represent Ireland's interests in international organizations and with external stakeholders in a global arena.

The Department has a responsibility and duty of care to staff and visitors to all our buildings, and must ensure that there are adequate security provisions and that health and safety standards are met, as well as providing universal access facilities. The Department maintains an appropriate level of health, safety and security in all the buildings within our mission network, depending on each locations' unique circumstances and requirements.

All expenditure, including that related to property maintenance, repair and/or refurbishment across the Department's property portfolio is conducted in line with our obligations under Government procurement regulations and guidelines. This includes adherence to public tendering and contracting rules, taking account of both national and EU Public Procurement thresholds.

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@dfa.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@dfa.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 that reads "Kevin Carr". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Kevin Carr