



Our Ref: FOI/Req/2020/227

Date 23 December 2020

Dear Mr. Edwards,

I refer to the request, which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

- **Please can you provide all records relating to the costs spent on providing equipment such as computers, desks, chairs and other items in order to facilitate government employees from your Department who have been working from home since the Covid-19 pandemic began. The timeframe for this request is: March 2020 until November 2020**
- **Please provide records with the names of each item (such as “chair”, or “desk”) and how much each item cost.**
- **Please can you also provide all records relating to the costs spent on providing equipment such as computers, desks, chairs and other items in order to facilitate your Department's Minister working from home since the Covid-19 pandemic began in March 2020 until November 2020. Please provide records with the names of each item (such as “chair”, or “desk”), how much each item cost and who each item was for (example: “Taoiseach”, or “Enterprise Minister”).**

I have identified 94 records that fall within your requested parameters mentioned above on our accounting system SUN and have collected them into one spread sheet that falls under your request. As you requested I have labelled the Items located and the locations they were charged to. My file search additionally included Information Communications & Technology unit (ICT) and Property Management unit (PMU).

ICT have identified 5 records and PMU have identified 2 records that meet your request. I include them in the second excel.

I have not identified any equipment provided to any Ministers office that meets your request.

As part of the Department of Foreign Affairs ICT Strategy, (2018-2020) mobile desktop devices were deployed to deliver an enhanced remote working experience for staff globally.



Supported by significant upgrades in the Department's core ICT Infrastructure, these devices have allowed the Department to maintain a high level of business continuity across the world prior to and during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Therefore, the records of expenditure provided herewith reflect only *additional* equipment required on foot of the pandemic.

Right to 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 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,

Mr. Ciarán Hodge
Department of Foreign Affairs,
ICT unit,
76-78 Harcourt Street,
Dublin 2