



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2017/049

Ken Foxe

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 any records, recommendations, briefings, memos, submissions and so on explaining why the consul general's residence in New York needed to be moved.

A table of all costs associated with the move to include the receipts/invoices related to the move.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 21st March 2017.

I have identified 21 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 20 of the records and to part-grant one record.

Where access has been refused, the records are exempt from release under section 32 (1) (b) as it would endanger the life or safety of any person. The document that I am part granting is a report on the Residence of the CG NY written on the 5th Novemebr 2015, it included a number of annexs showing the security layout of the Residence of the CGNY and these cannot be released into the public domain to ensure the security of the CG.

Official accommodation serves a wide range of functions in support of Ireland's foreign policy; it is used for economic and cultural promotion, to host events on behalf of but not exclusively for; IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Bord Bia and Irish Universities/Colleges. Official accommodation serves as a showcase for Irish arts, crafts and products.

It is the Departments policy and practice to keep rents for official accommodation under review, especially at the time of agreeing new or renewing existing leases, when the Consulate General residence lease was up for renewal in 2013 (28/12/2013), a decision was made to go back to the market to investigate if a better value for money option was available. Two successive CG's carried out extensive research in the very competitive New York property market. As a direct result of this sustained effort a new location was secured in 2015

and was occupied in 2016, the new residence represented a saving of \$103, 200 in the first year.

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



Kerry O'Sullivan