



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/18/179

Date

Dear Requester,

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:

'The amount spent ensuring that all systems and procedures were GDPR compliant - please detail any spending made to ensure GDPR compliance to date.'

'The amount spent on GDPR training to date.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on the 29th of June 2018.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is fully committed to meeting its legal responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (EU 2016/679). Stringent physical security, ICT tools and training measures implemented by the Department protect all personal data submitted by its customers and ensure the safety and security of systems which hold this data which ensures proper compliance with data protection law.

The Global Irish Services (GIS) Division, which includes the Passport Service and Consular Services, holds a very significant bank of personal data. The GIS Division established an in house working group to oversee preparations for GDPR, with oversight and guidance provided by the Data Protection Officer. This includes the development of function-specific training and the development of the required compliance documentation. The Data Protection Officer has overseen and delivered a suite of data protection training including in-depth GDPR-specific training to staff across the Department.

At Headquarters, in-house data protection training and GDPR information sessions on systems and procedures are incorporated into the pre-posting training given to staff going on overseas assignments on an ongoing basis. In-house training is also provided on an ongoing basis for staff in the Passport Service, including all temporary staff who were assigned this year.

Attached is a table detailing GDPR compliance expenditure on systems, procedures and training.

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

Sandra Brophy