

29 April 2021

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2021/084

Mr Ken Foxe

ken@righttoknow.ie

Dear Mr Foxe,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for a note explaining certain transactions in 2020 by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 12 April 2021.

The transactions in your request relate to various gross payments for the purchase of official vehicles by our Missions abroad. Each transaction lists the account code along with the cost centre charged, journal reference and the amount of the transaction and not necessarily the cost of the vehicle. The Department has published a list of vehicles purchased in 2020. This details the net cost of the purchase after any discount, tax refunds, trade-in or disposal. The link to the inventory is available *here*

The purchase of official vehicles is carried out locally in accordance with sanction from Headquarters and is based on a competitive process to ensure that the market is tested and the most sustainable, safe and cost-effective option is selected.

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 <u>foi@dfa.ie</u>. 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 <u>foi@dfa.ie</u>, or 01-4082857.

You should make this appeal within 20 working days from the date of this notification. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. This

appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Hanniffy
Finance Division

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