Dear sir/madam,

I would like to make a freedom of information request to your HR department in relation to private secretaries and former private secretaries to ministers, ministers of state and heads of department and the retention element of this allowance after their service as private secretaries comes to an end.

Please can you provide me with records indicating:

1. The number of former private secretaries (appointed before 1 February 2012) in your department currently receiving the 50% allowance including a breakdown of the number of former private secretaries to ministers, ministers of state or heads of department; the cost of allowances to these in 2015.
2. The number of former private secretaries in your department appointed after 1 February 2012 and at what percentage level they are receiving an allowance (under the terms of last year’s civil service arbitration board decision), and which type of private secretary they were; the cost of allowances to these in 2015;
3. The number of active private secretaries in your department in 2015 broken down by what kind of private secretary they are.
4. The number of private secretaries in your department at present broken down by what kind of private secretary they are.

Please let me know if you need any more information on this request. My phone number is below.

Thanks and best regards,