

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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2017/217

27 November 2017

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 all invoices associated with expenditure with the Dublin Airport Authority for enhanced passenger services at the airport in the period 1 January 2014 to the current date. Any such invoices where they relate to other Irish airports. A table of all costs associated with such enhanced/VIP services at any Irish airport during the same period.’

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 09 November 2017.

I have identified 84 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 82 of the records and to part-grant 2 of the records.

Where records have been part-granted, this has been done under Section 36(1)(b), Section 36(1)(c) and 37(1) of the FoI Act (Commercially sensitive information and Personal information). The two records in question relate to (i) an invoice erroneously sent to DFAT in respect of another, private, customer of Platinum Services, and (ii) the corresponding credit note issued to DFAT in relation to this invoice. The information redacted is the name of the customer. In addition, on each of the 84 records, I have redacted the bank account information of the Dublin Airport Authority.

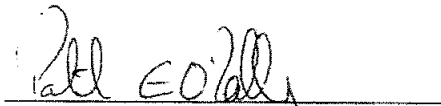
I also attach the table of all costs associated with enhanced/VIP services. In the period covered by your query, Dublin Airport was the only one within the State to charge for enhanced/VIP services and consequently all records and costs relate to that airport.

It is standard international practice for Governments to provide enhanced passenger services to visiting high-level representatives, both as a matter of courtesy, and also in order to facilitate their secure and prompt entry and exit from the airport. The difference in year-to-year spending on these services is a reflection of the varying number of high-level

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick O'Reilly', written over a horizontal line.

Patrick O'Reilly,
Assistant Chief of Protocol,
Department of Foreign Affairs