



Our Ref: Fol/Req/19290

30 October 2019

Dear Mr. Carswell,

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department on the 1 October 2019 as follows:

“Copies of any records or financial summaries showing the total cost of flights, accommodation and other travel expenses and miscellaneous costs associated with the attendance of the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Ministers Richard Bruton, Simon Harris, Katherine Zappone, Paul Kehoe, Helen McEntee and Ciaran Cannon at the United Nations General Assembly or related UN events in New York City in September 2019.”

The Taoiseach and seven ministers travelled to the 74th United Nations General Assembly in New York. They were as follows:

An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D. travelling from 22nd – 25th September

An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, T.D. travelling from 22nd – 25th September

Minister for Health, Simon Harris, T.D. travelling from 22nd – 24th September

Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton, T.D. 20th – 23rd September

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone, T.D. travelling from 20th – 26th September.

Minister of State for European Affairs, Helen McEntee, T.D. travelling from 24th – 27th September

Minister of State for Diaspora and International Development, Ciarán Cannon, T.D. travelling from 23rd – 28th September

Minister of State with responsibility for Defence, Paul Kehoe, T.D. travelling 25th – 28th September

A number of officials travelled with each Minister. Below is the list of officials that travelled with each delegation and their role.



Taoiseach's delegation;

Brian Murphy – Chief of Staff

John Callinan – Second Secretary General, Dept. of Taoiseach

Helen Blake – Assistant Secretary General, Dept. of Taoiseach

Nick Reddy – Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Sarah Meade – Assistant Government Press Secretary

Garda Protection Officer

Tánaiste's delegation;

Clare Brosnan – Private Secretary to the Tánaiste

Barbara Cullinane – Policy Director

Laura McGonigle – Special Advisor,

Minister for Health's delegation;

Sarah Bardon – Special Advisor

Colm O'Reardon – Deputy Secretary General, Dept. of Health

Laura Magahy – Deputy Secretary General, Dept. of Health

Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment's delegation;

Sarah O'Neill – Special Advisor

Brian Carroll – Assistant Secretary General, Dept. of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Michaela Sullivan – Private Secretary to the Minister

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs' delegation;

Lisa Hughes – Private Secretary to the Minister

Minister of State for European Affairs' delegation;

David Lea – Private Secretary to the Minister of State

Minister of State for Diaspora and International Development's delegation;

Anne Griffin – Private Secretary to the Minister of State



Minister of State with responsibility for Defence's delegation;

Maurice Quinn – Secretary General, Dept. of Defence

John Coughlan – Special Advisor

Cliona O'Sullivan – Private Secretary to the Minister of State

Michael Malone – Commodore, Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service

Gavin McCarthy – Lieutenant Commander, Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service

Bernie Maguire – Principal Officer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade only holds records of the flights which this Department paid or partially paid for the flight. These are provided in the below table. For details of other Ministers' flights, the respective Department should be contacted. In respect of the flights paid for by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, these were the Tánaiste and his delegation; Minister of State McEntee and Minister of State Cannon and his delegation. With regard to Minister Zappone's flight, part of cost will be paid for by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and part by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Passenger	Cost	Airline, Class
Tánaiste Simon Coveney	€1349.67	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Clare Brosnan	€1120.65	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Barbara Cullinane	€1117.56	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Laura McGonigle	€1077.67	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Minister Katherine Zappone	Awaiting for the Department to be invoiced for these flights	Aer Lingus/Delta, Economy Class & Business Class
Minister of State Helen McEntee	€1496.23	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Minister of State Ciaran Cannon	€882.80	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Anne Griffin	€882.80	Aer Lingus, Economy Class



All Ministers and their delegations stayed at the Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel, 141 East 44th St., New York at US \$499 per night with the exception of Minister of State Cannon and his delegation which stayed at the Fitzpatrick Manhattan 687 Lexington Ave. New York at US \$499 per night.

In relation to transport costs, these are detailed in the below table.

Taoiseach	US \$1390	People carrier hire for the delegation
Tánaiste	0	Used the Consulate General's car
Minister Harris	US \$92.19	Taxis
Minister Bruton	US \$16.77	Taxis
Minister Zappone	US \$127.07	Taxis
Minister of State McEntee	US \$219.23	Taxis for the delegation
Minister of State Kehoe	US \$382.32	Taxis, Uber, Minivan hire for airport pick up for the delegation
Minister of State Cannon	US \$85.63	Taxis

At the time of this request no travel or subsistence request had been submitted for any of delegates covered by this request.

The catering costs for dinners hosted throughout the period of the Ministerial visits in the residence of Ireland's Ambassador to the United Nations came to a total US \$2410.

A reception held on the Irish Naval Service vessel the LÉ Samuel Beckett in New York on the 27th September cost €1940.

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 the Fol Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01 – 408 2857.



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

Conor Black
United Nations Policy