



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

7 March 2018

Our Ref: FoI/Req/18/037

Mr Ken Foxe

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:

- *a list of all overnight guests at Farmleigh House (with dates on which they stayed) at Farmleigh House from 1 January 2017 to the current date for DFAT hosted events*
- *a spreadsheet/database of all costs associated with official entertainment events at Farmleigh House broken down according to cost category: catering, entertainment, flowers, transport, and so on for DFAT hosted events*

I refer also the acknowledgement sent to you on 6 March

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade works closely with colleagues in Áras an Uachtaráin, the Department of the Taoiseach, other government Departments, as well as stakeholders such as State Agencies in the development and delivering of programmes for high-level visits that support the promotion of Ireland's interests internationally and contribute to the development of strong economic, political and cultural links. In the course of such visits, high-level visitors are occasionally offered accommodation at Farmleigh House, which is the official guest house of the Irish State.

In the period covered by your request, the following overseas dignitaries were accommodated at Farmleigh House: H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia, 2-5 April 2017; H. .R.H. The Prince of Wales & H.R.H. The Duchess of Cornwall, 10-12 May 2017; The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, 3-5 July 2017; and, H.E. General the Hon Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of Australia, 21-24 September 2017. These visits are a matter of public record. A number of accompanying officials were also offered hospitality.

In relation to your request for information on costs related to official entertainment at Farmleigh House, these are provided in the table below. I note that the information outlined below is specific to the Farmleigh House element of these visits and does not contain information for the visit as a whole, as this is beyond the scope of your request. For example, official overseas visits incur transport costs for the visit as a whole and it is not possible to extrapolate costs related to the sub-set of movements to and from Farmleigh. Transport costs relating to the dinner for the Presidential Distinguished Service Awards (PDSA) were

comprised of coach hire that also covered the official PDSA ceremony at Áras an Uachtaráin. In relation to other service costs for relating to the use of Farmleigh House for official entertainment, business is allocated on the basis of the most economically advantageous cost savings arrangements, value for money and high quality service and products. Cost savings are sought where possible.

	Visit by President of the Republic of Croatia	Visit by The Prince of Wales & The Duchess of Cornwall	Visit by Prime Minister of Canada	Senior Management Forum	Visit by Governor-General of Australia	PDSA dinner	Total
Catering	€4,235.69	€5,918.87	€6,118.16	€2,427.14	€10,973.39	€9,172.25	
Entertainment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	€1,500.00	
Flowers	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	€202.50	
Transport	N/A	N/A	N/A	€870.00	N/A	€966.00	

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Eleanor Farrell

Assistant Chief of Protocol