Our Ref: FoI/Req/19/139

24 April 2019

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:

A2AIRBUS Airfares Official Department Travel – Business 27/11/2018 11031.52

Human Resources - DCD

A3STATEENT STATE/OFFICIAL ENTERTAINMENT 15/10/2018 54218.9

Protocol OPTIMUM CHAUFFEUR DRIVE

A6PURCHASE DFA PREMISES – PURCHASE 28/09/2018 171573.26

Property Management Unit

A3MISC MISCELLANEOUS 14/12/2018 15553.57

NEW DELHI

A3MISC MISCELLANEOUS 27/03/2018 14361.5

SHANGHAI

A3WELLBEING WELLBEING AT WORK PROGRAMME 21/06/2018 24198

Human Resources BIOMNIS IRELAND

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on

I have identified 6 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant access to 4 records and part grant to two further records.

Record 1
Record 1 is an invoice from Club Travel for €11,031.52. This invoice relates to the purchase of flights from Dublin to Bogota for the Ambassador’s family going to Mission Bogota. This record is part granted as information has been redacted under section 37(1) Personal information and section 36 – Commercially Sensitive Information.

Record 2
Record 2 is an invoice from Optimum Chauffeur Drive for €54,218.90 for all transport services for the duration of Papal Visit for the team and related support officials and delegation across multiple locations in Dublin and Knock.

Record 3
Record 3 is papers in relation to the deposit for purchase of No 2232 Mass Ave Washington €171,573.26 (USD$199,900) payable to Fidelity National Title Insurance. This record is part granted as information has been redacted under Section 37(1) Personal information.

Record 4

Record 4 is a payment by Embassy New Delhi to Times Strategic Solutions €15,553.26 (INR1,230,000) for Economic Times’ Global Business Summit. This payment was made as part of Ireland’s role as Country Partner at the Economic Times’ Global Business Summit. The event was used by Mission New Delhi and the IDA as an excellent platform to promote Ireland as a business and economic partner to key Indian and international decision-makers and investors, and provided a timely opportunity to highlight Ireland’s position on Brexit and to promote the continued advantages of Ireland as an investment location and excellent country in which to do business.

Record 5

Record 5 is an invoice from IMB (Beijing) Exhibition & Conference Co Ltd for €14,361.50 (RMB 110,000.00). This payment relates to the Greening of the Great Wall for St Patrick’s Day.

Record 6

Record 6 is an invoice from Biomnis for €24,198. As part of the Department’s Wellbeing at Work programme and the documented benefits of health screening for staff, a Health Screening programme was offered to DFAT staff in HQ offices in April and May, 2018. In total, 222 staff applied for the service, which was provided by Healthwatch. The programme was facilitated on a part-payment basis with a contribution of €40 from each officer. The total charge to the Department was €24,198.00. However, with staff contributions totalling €8,600.00, the net cost to the Department was actually €15,598.00.

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. 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 fo@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

[Signature]
Albert Rattigan
Finance Division