



02/05/2019

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/153

Dear Mr Patterson,

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:

The amount that the Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade spent on purchasing business or first class tickets for flights for each Irish Ambassador for work related business in the years 2018 and to-date in 2019 in tabular form. To be further assistance what I mean e.g. in 2018 The Dept. spent x amount on business class flight tickets for the Irish Ambassador to the UK etc.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 16 April 2019.

The Department does not authorise First Class flight travel. All official travel undertaken by officers of the Department is in accordance with the travel policy for all Government Departments set by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with the aim of achieving value for money for expenditure necessarily incurred consistent with the effective discharge of official duties. The attached table in Schedule 1 lists the number of business flights and the cost of business air travel incurred by Ambassadors/Heads of Mission in 2018 and up to 8 April 2019

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@dfat.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@dfat.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

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Finance Division

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