

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

17 July 2019

Our Ref: FoI/Req/19/198

Mr. Ronan Smyth  
Irish Daily Mail

Dear Mr. Smyth,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for details as follows:

- *A list of all gifts presented to and received by Minister Simon Coveney in the past 12 months.*
- *A corresponding list of who presented which gift.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 25 June 2019.

Under section 15 of the Ethics in Public Office Act (1995) gifts presented to office holders valued in excess of €650 are deemed to be gifts to the State and must be recorded accordingly following valuation through the Office of Public Works. No such gifts were received by Mr. Simon Coveney TD in his role as Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade in the past 12 months.

While there is no requirement to retain lists of token gifts of the type customarily presented to office holders of this Department the attached list of gifts presented to the Tánaiste, during the period under review, has been compiled. Additional token gifts are also presented from time to time. Therefore this list may not be exhaustive.

Exchange of modest gifts is standard international practice in the context of Ministerial and other high-level engagements.

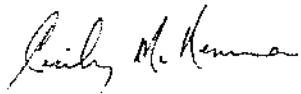
**Right of Appeal**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cecily McKenna".

Cecily McKenna  
Protocol Division