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

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minister</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taoiseach</td>
<td>US $1390</td>
<td>People carrier hire for the delegation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tánaiste</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Used the Consulate General’s car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister Harris</td>
<td>US $92.19</td>
<td>Taxis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister Bruton</td>
<td>US $16.77</td>
<td>Taxis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister Zappone</td>
<td>US $127.07</td>
<td>Taxis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of State McEntee</td>
<td>US $219.23</td>
<td>Taxis for the delegation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of State Kehoe</td>
<td>US $382.32</td>
<td>Taxis, Uber, Minivan hire for airport pick up for the delegation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of State Cannon</td>
<td>US $85.63</td>
<td>Taxis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

[Signature]

Coimn Black
United Nations Policy