



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/19/355

9 January 2020

Dear Ms Sheehan,

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 full travel, security and advisory costs incurred by the Department in the operation to repatriate an Irish national and her child to Ireland since September 1 2019:*

*A breakdown of the above costs, including:*

*The numbers of trips*

*The numbers of people travelling in each party*

*The cost of flights, accommodation and meals*

*The cost of advice or consultancy or reports of any kind relevant to the operation & commissioned by the Department*

*Costs of external security services sought for the operation*

*Costs/expenses of foreign governments and/or officials/representatives acting on its behalf.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 19 December 2019.

I can confirm the following:

- 4 individuals travelled from Dublin to Istanbul on November 29: one official from the Department of Foreign Affairs and three personnel from the Defence Forces.
- The official and personnel travelled from Dublin to Istanbul on 29 November and returned to Dublin on 1 December.
- The official and personnel spent two nights in an airport hotel – November 29 and November 30.
- Two officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs travelled from Ankara to Istanbul on the morning of November 30 and returned to Ankara later on the same day.

- One official from the Department of Foreign Affairs travelled within Turkey on a one-way flight from Ankara to Istanbul on November 30.
- 7 individuals travelled from Istanbul to Dublin on December 1: the Department of Foreign Affairs official and three Defence Forces personnel who had travelled from Dublin, one official from the Irish Embassy to Turkey, the Irish citizen and her young child.
- One official from the Department of Foreign Affairs returned from Dublin to Ankara on December 9.

I can provide the following information in relation to costs. The information is provided in Turkish Lira, with an estimate given of the approximate corresponding overall euro value based on historical exchange information available at [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

The overall combined costs in Turkish Lira come to 31,842.72 TRY, which has a combined approximate Euro value of €5028.60 based on historical exchange rate information for November 29 (1 TRY = 0.15792 Euro). This includes the costs for the following:

- Flight from Dublin to Istanbul, November 29: Four tickets – 6,595.52 TRY
- Airport hotel, November 29: Four rooms – 3,486.78 TRY
- Airport hotel, November 30: Five rooms – 4,343.28 TRY
- Return flight from Ankara to Istanbul, November 30: Two tickets – 1475.96 TRY
- One-way flight from Ankara to Istanbul, November 30: One ticket – 299.99 TRY
- Flight from Istanbul to Dublin, November 30: Seven tickets – 13,957.49 TRY (Note: the original booking was for a flight on November 30. This was changed to December 1 by Turkish officials at no extra cost).
- Flight from Dublin to Ankara, December 9: One ticket – 1683.70 TRY

No consultancy or reports were commissioned by the Department in relation to the return of the citizen and her child.

No external security services were sought in relation to the return of the citizen and her child.

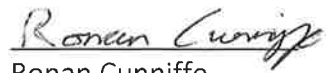
The Department is not aware of any costs/expenses of foreign governments and/or officials/representatives acting on its behalf.

### 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



Ronan Cunniffe  
Consular Directorate