



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/22012

Date 02/02/2022

Dear Mr Kessler

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:

I requested the transport modes and itineraries of "any DFA members" I meant up to, and including, Minister Coveney.

If aviation was used, I wish to know explicitly did Minister Coveney use it, and how many DFA members out of the total number of travelling members used it.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on Friday, January 7th 2022.

As agreed with you, I have created a record that falls within the scope of your request. I have made a decision to grant this record.

The record encompasses a table, set out below, that outlines the number of DFA staff, including Minister Coveney and Minister of State Brophy, who travelled to COP26 in Glasgow and the means by which they travelled.

The modes of travel illustrated in the table refer only to travel from country to country and not daily travel within Scotland or countries of origin.

It should be noted that while efforts were made by HQ staff to book rail and sail options, there were uncertainties associated with this travel option:

- Planned strike action by rail workers in Scotland before and during COP26;
- Inaccessibility of Scottish Rail website to book the rail-sail option;
- Uncertainty of weather conditions for sail crossing, with the risk of travel delays
- Need to dovetail attendance at COP26 with other business requirements.

As of 2020, all Government Departments are required to calculate carbon emissions associated with official flights, and to make an offsetting payment to the Government's

Climate Action Fund. All official air travel undertaken by Department of Foreign Affairs staff, including Ministers, during 2021 will be offset through this mechanism.

Unit/Team	Total Number of people per Unit/Team	Number of people travel by Aviation	Number of people travel by Ferry	Number of people travel by Train
HQ – Climate Unit officials	5	4	1	
HQ – Minister of State Brophy and support staff	3 (including Minister)	3		
HQ – Minister Coveney and support staff	5 (including Minister)	4		
Embassy Lilongwe	1	1		
Embassy London	2			2
Total number (officials & Ministers)	16	12	1	2

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, (€10 for medical card holders). A copy of the medical card should be provided to avail of the reduced fee. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01-4082618.

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

Maeve McLynn
Climate Unit, Development Cooperation and Africa Division
Department of Foreign Affairs
