

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

Our Ref: FoI/Req/18/273

19 November 2018

Dear Mr. Dineen,

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 names of all of the people plus their titles / job descriptions that went on the State visits to Australia and New Zealand in October 2017 plus on the State visit to Cuba, Peru and Colombia in February 2017

** An itemised breakdown of the cost associated with each person who went on these trips to include: cost of hotels, subsistence claimed, travel bills, food ,and any other cost.*

** An itemised breakdown of the costs of the State visits to Australia and New Zealand and to Cuba, Peru and Colombia to include whatever information is available: as well as the costs associated with travel and the use of the Government jet.*

**Any receipts or records relating to the trip that are on file with the Department of Foreign Affairs.”*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 07 November, and to our telephone conversation of 06 November 2018.

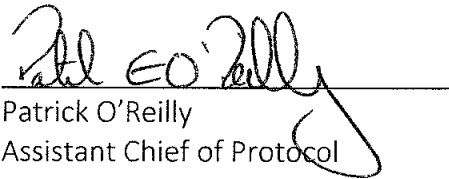
The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and its staff are involved in the planning, coordination and execution of overseas travel by the President, including the visits referred to in your request. However, as discussed during our telephone conversation, this Department is not in a position to provide access to the information requested as the FOI Act does not apply to records relating to the President (Section 42(h) of the Act).

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 FOI Unit at 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,



Patrick O'Reilly
Assistant Chief of Protocol