



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FoI/Req/14/006

11 February 2014

Philip Ryan

Dear Mr Ryan,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 for records held by this Department, in which you requested:

Details of all correspondence or documents relating to the organisation and planning of the Tánaiste's visits to Washington on July 10-13 last year and his visit to New York on September 24-29. Including all cost analysis of the trip carried out by Department officials.

Copies of the dated invitation received by the Tánaiste for both visits.

The official itinerary for both visits and details of accommodation, additional travel (taxi etc) and food, beverage, meals and entertainment costs

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 28 January 2014.

I have identified six records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant all of the records.

I would note that, in respect of the Washington visit in July, the Tánaiste's commitments in Dublin, including attendance at the Dáil debate on the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill, necessitated a late departure on the evening of 10 July. The uncertainty with regard to the timing of the passage of this legislation meant the Government Jet was necessary in order to allow flexibility on departure times. It was also necessary to enable the Tánaiste to fulfil his programme of meetings on Capitol Hill on US immigration reform, which commenced at 8:45am on 11 July.

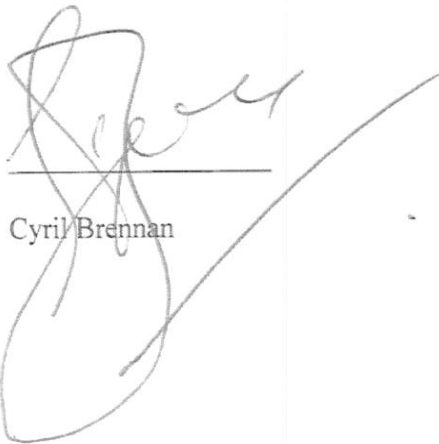
Similarly, in respect of the New York visit in September, the Tánaiste's commitments in Dublin, including attendance at a Cabinet meeting, necessitated a late departure on the evening of 24 September. Commercial flights were not available which would have allowed him to fulfil his programme, which began with a business breakfast at 7.15am on 25 September, followed by attendance at the UN Special Event on the Millenium Development Goals at which the Tánaiste co-chaired a round-table session at 10.30 a.m.

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, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2.. A fee applies for an appeal, with the exception of an appeal against the imposition of a fee, the level of this fee has been set at €75. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs.

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



Cyril Brennan