

Our Ref: FOI/REQ/2015/098

Ms. Ciara Treacy

12 November 2015

Dear Ms. Treacy

I refer to the request you have made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 in which you requested details relating to:

- A detailed breakdown of all costs related to the visit of the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall to Ireland in 2015, including details of costs by external contractors selected by a procurement process
- Correspondence between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and NUI Galway relating to this visit
- Correspondence between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Defence relating to this visit

Details of costs charged to this Department in relation to this visit are set out in the attached table. Business is allocated on the basis of the most economically advantageous proposal for each assignment and cost savings continue to be sought where possible.

D/Foreign Affairs & Trade payments made to in relation to the visit to Ireland by HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, 19-21 May 2015	
Accommodation (in respect of advance and visit DFAT Officials, 22 staff in total)	€3,582
Transport	€25,921
Official photography	€2,663
NUIG press centre	€1,991
Printing	€534
Gifts	€337
Total	€29,562

Services rendered by external contractors selected by a procurement process			
Company	Costs	Description	Location
Optimum	€2,147	Transport – car hire during advance visit	Dublin, Galway and Sligo
Devines	€18,308	Transport – car hire during visit	Dublin, Galway and Sligo
Prontaprint	€534	Printing	Dublin

Additional costs for overtime and subsistence for DFAT staff were incurred, but as the officers were involved in a number of visits in the period in question extracting costs specific to the visit of the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall would take further analysis.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade did not incur hospitality costs during this visit. Accommodation costs for the visiting delegation were a matter for the British authorities. Transport planning took account of the requirements arising from working in multiple locations in the west of Ireland as well as the security and staffing requirements that applied in managing this significant, high level visit.

The visit celebrated the depth and potential of 21st century Irish-British links, while also acknowledging more difficult moments from the past.

Just as he did during this visit - most notably in his speech in Sligo - the Prince of Wales made peace and reconciliation central themes in his previous official visits in 1995 and 2002, both of which came during important stages of the Northern Ireland Peace Process. Reconciliation and dealing with the past are issues that can still challenge us, and were the subject of the Stormont House Agreement reached in Belfast last December.

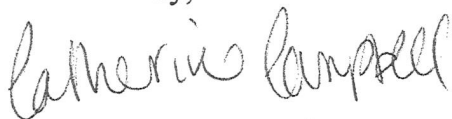
The visit programme showcased modern research and educational links, especially at the Marine Institute in Oranmore, NUI Galway and the Institute of Technology in Sligo. It also added to the international profile of the west of Ireland, in particular the Wild Atlantic Way and also Ireland's cultural heritage as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of WB Yeats' birth. The visit was covered by all major media organisations in Britain, our largest overseas tourism market. Two in five visitors to Ireland come from Britain, bringing over €800 million in tourism revenue annually.

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@dfat.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@dfat.ie, or 01-4082857.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) of 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 this Department.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Campbell
Protocol Division