



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Caroline Dalton

Our Ref: FOI/REQ/14/108

18 December 2014

Dear Ms Dalton

I refer to your recent application under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to the itinerary and costs associated with the visit of then-Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore TD to France for St Patrick's Day 2014.

I have decided to grant your request in full. Attached is the itinerary and cost details.

The then-Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore TD visited Paris in March as part of the Government's wider 'Promote Ireland' campaign of international activity which saw 27 ministers taking part in over 100 business events and 80 high-level political meetings in 35 cities around the world over the St. Patrick's Day 2014 period. The then Tánaiste undertook an intensive programme of trade and investment-focused events aimed at boosting Ireland's economic and political ties with France. The main outcomes of the visit include:

- Unprecedented level of political engagement, including the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister.
- 3 St Patrick's Day events with 250-500 guests addressed by the then Tánaiste
- 7 trade promotion events in conjunction with one or more state agencies
- Specific relationship-building opportunities for more than 35 Enterprise Ireland and Bord Bia companies during the Paris Saint Patrick's Day programme
- 5 venues greened in Paris and in Monaco as part of the St Patrick's Day tourism programme
- Media interview for Tánaiste with main French business/economic paper (149,000 circulation, 3.9 million unique monthly website visitors).

To minimise the costs of the visit the then Tánaiste stayed at the Ambassador's Residence in Paris. Flights were booked as early as possible to ensure the lowest possible price and local ground transport was sourced following the submission of three quotes from reputable suppliers.

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) 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



Julie O'Brien
FOI Officer