



An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2016/016

Mr. Ben Haugh  
Irish Mail on Sunday  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Embassy House,  
Herbert Park Lane,  
Ballsbridge,  
Dublin 4

11<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Mr. Haugh,

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

*Spending by the Department on catering in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, broken down by year, supplier and amount paid to supplier.*

*Please also include the total number of meetings/events (which required catering) for each year.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 19 February 2016.

Official hospitality plays an important role in the promotion of a positive image of Ireland internationally and in the further development and strengthening of bilateral political, economic / foreign earnings and cultural links with the countries and international organisations concerned.

The tables attached cover hospitality provided at a total of 228 events hosted by, or on behalf of, Ministers organised by this Department's Protocol Division. These events supported the work of the Department and Government on priorities such as the advancement of reconciliation and cooperation, the promotion of Ireland's values and priorities on global themes, the promotion of Ireland's bilateral relations on political and economic interests, as well as cultural events with an international dimension.

The events include hospitality on the occasion of high level visits such as that of HM Queen Elizabeth II, China's Premier and the UN Secretary General, as well as at major events such as the Global Irish Economic Forum in 2011, 2013 and 2015 which, on each occasion, brought together more than 300 leading Irish and Irish-connected figures from across the globe to play their part in building on Ireland's recovery. Also included are events such as lunches, dinners and receptions hosted in Iveagh House in support of Ireland's interest.

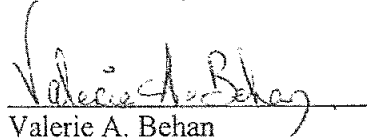
Cost savings are always sought where possible. Business is allocated on the basis of the most economically advantageous proposal for each assignment.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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,

  
Valerie A. Behan