



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála

Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Dublin 2

14th November 2015

Paul Healy,
Irish Daily Star,
Independent House,
27-32 Talbot Street,
Dublin 1

Ref: FoI/Req/2015/110

Dear Mr Healy,

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:

"I am seeking all records with the Department of Foreign Affairs in relation to subsistence/costs expenses claimed by Minister of State with responsibility for European Affairs Dara Murphy. The records I am seeking are from 2014 to date (November 2015)

I am seeking a full breakdown of subsistence costs claimed only by Mr. Murphy – as well as a grand total cost for 2014 and the cost for 2015 to date. "

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 13th November, 2015.

I have identified 1 record that falls within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule below. I have made a decision to grant all records.

	Record Description	Granted/Part-Granted/Refused	Section exempted under:
1.	Details of subsistence claims subsistence/costs/mileage expenses claimed by Minister of State	Granted	N/A

As you will appreciate, the role of Minister of State at the Departments of the Taoiseach and Foreign Affairs and Trade with special Responsibility for European Affairs and Data Protection includes an obligation to undertake a significant amount of official travel overseas.

This Department is fully compliant with the Department of Finance guidelines on foreign travel. The Department also operates its own detailed internal travel guidelines and practices

which ensure cost effective travel, both in Headquarters and throughout our network of 80 diplomatic missions abroad.

The central aim of the Departmental travel policy, which applies to both Ministers and officials, is to minimise official travel costs and to achieve value for money for expenditure necessarily incurred, consistent with the effective discharge of official duties.

Ministerial mileage expenses are paid in accordance with rates and regulations set down by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Mileage expenses are a monthly total and reflect business related travel across Ireland during the respective month, and incorporate deductions for any personal-related travel.

Below is a summary table of subsistence and mileage by year as requested and attached is a detailed breakdown of these costs.

Summary Table

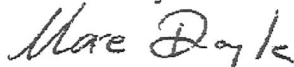
Year	Subsistence	Mileage	Total
2014	2,785.03	11,775.32	14,560.35
2015	3,116.06	17,509.80	20,625.86
Total	5,901.09	29,285.12	35,186.21

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



Clare Doyle
Finance Division