

13<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Mark O'Regan  
Irish Independent,  
Independent House,  
27-32 Talbot Street,  
Dublin 1.

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2016/204

Dear Mr. O'Regan,

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

**The amount spent since 2015 on hotel accommodation and flights for politicians and where applicable, family members, travelling overseas to attend functions or on official State business.**

**An itemised breakdown of the cost of each airline ticket in each year, as well as the cost of individual hotel rooms. This would also include the name of the individual for whom the room was booked and the purpose of the trip.**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

I am the responding officer for your request. I have identified 1 record that falls within the scope of your request. The record is listed in the schedule below and the details in the attached table.

<b>Record Description.</b>	<b>Granted/ Part- Granted/ Refused.</b>
Travel costs for Minister Charles Flanagan T.D. for 2015 and 2016.	Granted.

Given the nature of the Department's responsibilities the Minister is obliged to undertake a significant amount of official travel.

All official travel undertaken by the Minister is fully compliant with the D.P.E.R. guidelines on official travel and also operates its own detailed internal travel guidelines. The central aim of the Departmental travel policy is to minimise official travel costs and to achieve value for money for expenditure necessarily incurred, consistent with the effective discharge of official duties.

## **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) 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,

Sally Keogh  
Finance Unit.