



An Roinn Gnóthaf Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Sean Defoe
Newstalk,
Marconi House,
Digges Lane,
Dublin 2.

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2016/179

28th November 2016

Dear Mr Defoe,

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:

A breakdown of the financial cost of the visit to Ireland by US Vice President Joe Biden in 2016. I also request a similar breakdown for visits by the Prince of Wales to Donegal, French President Francois Hollande and President of the European Council Donald Tusk.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 7th November 2016.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade works closely with colleagues in Áras an Uachtaráin, the Department of the Taoiseach, other government Departments, as well as stakeholders such as State Agencies in the development and delivery of programmes for high-level visits that support the promotion of Ireland's interests internationally and contribute to the development of strong economic, political and cultural links.

Details of the relevant costs are set out in the attached record. These costs cover items such as transport of the principal and delegation, official photography, accommodation for officials, catering, miscellaneous items and airport costs. In accordance with standard international practice relating to the courtesies extended to visiting high-level representatives arrival and departure facilities at the airport were provided. These services facilitate secure and prompt entry and exit from the airport; a necessary security measure for heads of state and government and other high-level representatives.

Business is allocated on the basis of the most economically advantageous proposal for each assignment and cost savings continue to be sought where possible.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Cusack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'M'.

Mary Cusack
Protocol Division