



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

31 May, 2017

Our Ref: FOI/Req/17/046

Mr Cormac McQuinn
Political Correspondent
INM

Dear Mr McQuinn,

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:

“Details of all costs incurred by the Department in relation to the All-Island Civic Dialogue events on Brexit. The costs could include, but are not limited to the following: venue hire, car hire, taxi travel, flights, catering, photography, gifts for delegates, entertainment for delegates, restaurant costs, hotel costs.

Copies of all receipts for expenses incurred by the Department in relation to the All-Island Civic Dialogue events on Brexit.”

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 7 March 2017.

Recognising the profound implications of the UK electorate's decision to leave the EU, and in particular, the possible grave implications for the island of Ireland in respect of the Peace Process, the border, the Common Travel Area, the all-island economy and east-west trade, the Government initiated the All-Island Civic Dialogue process in Autumn 2016.

There have been two plenary sessions of the All-Island Civic Dialogue to date involving 220 participants in November 2016 and 360 participants in February 2017 (see appendix). In addition, there have been 16 sectoral events with participation from across the island of Ireland involving over 1,400 participants.

In addition to those in attendance, there was live-streaming of plenary discussions to enable the widest reach possible. There was also a significant media presence at the Dialogue events, including international media. In this context, the plenary sessions of the All-Island

Civic Dialogue were valuable in highlighting across the EU Ireland's unique concerns and the scale of the challenge that Brexit poses to our island.

The All-Island Civic Dialogue process has helped to map out the challenges presented by Brexit and how these might impact socially and economically across the island. This work has fed directly into the Government's own analysis which involves each department conducting internal analyses identifying the major risks and mitigation measures for their sectors. Further information about this approach is available here:
http://www.merrionstreet.ie/MerrionStreet/en/EU-UK/FAQs/Your_questions_answered.html

The Civic Dialogue process will continue to inform the Government's approach throughout the negotiations.

Further information on the All-Island Civic Dialogues, including a summary report of the main themes of the All-Island Sectoral Dialogues, can be found at
<http://www.merrionstreet.ie/en/EU-UK/Consultations/>.

The table below provides a breakdown of the costs incurred in hosting the All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit plenary meetings on 2 November 2016 in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham (RHK) and 17 February 2017 in Dublin Castle.

<i>Item</i>	<i>2 November 2016, Royal Hospital Kilmainham Cost</i>	<i>17 February 2017, Dublin Castle Cost</i>
Set up and management of the operational aspects of the event including contractors engaged on the Department's behalf by the Office of Public Works (OPW)	43,374.23	27,862.50
Catering	16,093.59	24,273.43
Filming and Photography of Dialogue	3,166.20	3,772.50
Accommodation	1,368.00	345.00
Travel	414.94	117.95
Graphic Design ¹	210.00	1,015.00
Accreditation - badge production/lanyards ²	151.29	1,039.35
Total³	64,778.25	58,425.73

¹ Printing of programme and other materials for these events was done in-house to reduce costs

² Retained for re-use wherever appropriate

³ As these events were co-hosted by the Taoiseach and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the costs are shared between the two Departments.

In addition the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has held two sectoral All-Island Civic Dialogue meetings - the first on Human Rights and the Good Friday Agreement on 13 February 2017 in Maynooth, Co. Kildare, and the second on 22 May on the North-West and Wider Border Region in Letterkenny, Co Donegal.

The cost of the Human Rights and the Good Friday Agreement event held in Maynooth was €3,375.94. Details of the cost of the North-West Wider Border Region event held in Letterkenny on 22 May have yet to be collated.

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,



Emer Roche