



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

26/04/2019

Our Ref: FOI/Req/2019/134

Dear Ms McAuliffe,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department.

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 11 April 2019.

The answer to your request is as follows:

**2011: Minister for Foreign Affairs Eamon Gilmore - flights, subsistence and all other costs associated with the Minister's St Patrick's Day trip to the US in 2011**

**2012: Minister for Foreign Affairs Eamon Gilmore - flights, subsistence and all other costs associated with the Minister's St Patrick's Day trip to Canada in 2012**

**2013: Minister for Foreign Affairs Eamon Gilmore - flights, subsistence and all other costs associated with the Minister's St Patrick's Day trip to the US in 2013**

**2014: Minister for Foreign Affairs Eamon Gilmore - flights, subsistence and all other costs associated with the Minister's St Patrick's Day trip to the US in 2014\***

**2014: Minister of State Joe Costello - flights, subsistence and all other costs associated with the Minister's St Patrick's Day trips to Singapore and Philippines in 2014**

**2015: Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan - flights, subsistence and all other costs associated with the Minister's St Patrick's Day trip to the USA and Canada in 2015**

**2015: Minister of State Sean Sherlock - flights, subsistence and all other costs associated with the Minister's St Patrick's Day trip to Ethiopia and Tanzania in 2015**

**2015: Minister of State Jimmy Deenihan - flights, subsistence and all other costs associated with the Minister's St Patrick's Day trip to the US in 2015**

*\*Minister for Foreign Affairs Eamonn Gilmore travelled to Paris for the 2014 St Patrick's Days celebrations.*

A list of the costs requested are attached in Schedule 1

St Patrick's Day celebrations and promotions across the globe attract levels of publicity and media attention unmatched by the national day of any other country. Ministerial visits during the period are organised to ensure that we make the maximum positive use of this exposure by engaging with host governments, strengthening links with our diaspora, spreading a positive message about Ireland, and



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maximising the promotion of Ireland's trade, tourism and investment interests in these important overseas markets.

The Department complies with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform guidelines on official travel. 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

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