

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2019/233

Date: 9th September 2019

Dear Requester,

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:

- **The cost incurred to date on Ireland's campaign to secure a rotating seat on the UN Security Council including a breakdown of the costs involved.**
- **Copies of all records which relate to the involvement of the rock star Bono from U2 in the UN Security Council campaign, specifically his involvement in its launch at the UN headquarters in New York.**

Please find attached a schedule of costs incurred to date regarding Ireland's UN Security Council candidature (**schedule 1**). Please also find attached a breakdown of costs associated with the launch of the United Nations Security Council campaign that was given in response to a previous Freedom of Information request received on 31 January 2019 (**schedule 2**). The official launch of Ireland's candidature took place on 2 July 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Costs contained in schedule 1 include costs for materials produced to coincide with the launch event in New York on 2 July 2018 and materials that will be utilised throughout the remaining ten months of Ireland's Security Council campaign. Travel related to the promotion of Ireland's candidature is also included in this schedule. Bilateral and multilateral meetings, and other international fora engagements have been availed of by officials to promote Ireland's candidature, our commitment to the UN and multilateralism, and to outline the values we seek to bring to the work of the Security Council during those engagements.

The costs itemised in schedule 2 refer both to the cost of the launch event itself, travel and accommodation costs for the Tánaiste, Minister of State Cannon and relevant officials and logistical support staff, and approximated subsistence costs for the travelling officials and logistics support staff.

It should be noted that in addition to travelling to New York to attend the Security Council campaign launch and associated events; An Tánaiste, Minister of State Cannon, the Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other senior officials undertook a number of engagements unrelated to the Ireland's candidature for the Security Council.

With regard to your request regarding the involvement of the rock star, Bono, in the launch of the Security Council campaign, this has been taken to refer to discussions which led to an agreement by U2 to invite all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York to a concert in that city on 1 July 2018. The tickets for the concert were very generously provided as a gift by U2.

I have identified 20 records that fall within the scope of your request which are listed in the attached schedule (**schedule 3**). I have made a decision to grant all of these records which have been edited only to remove personal details of individuals.

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@dfa.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@dfa.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



Dara Coyne
United Nations Policy