



Our Ref: Fol/Req/19291

30 October 2019

Dear Mr McQuinn,

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department on the 1 October 2019 as follows:

“Details of all available expenses incurred by Tánaiste Simon Coveney, junior minister Ciarán Cannon, junior minister Helen McEntee and all travelling officials for trips to New York for UN meetings in September 2019.

The records should include details:

- The number of officials that travelled, including those who travelled with President Michael D Higgins;
- Flights including whether they were economy/business class/first class and costs incurred by any flight cancellations;
- Accommodation costs;
- Entertainment costs including catering;
- Transport costs;
- Subsistence claims;
- Spending on gifts for dignitaries;
- Cost of venue hire for events in New York;
- Details of all expenditure by the Irish mission to the United Nations for the various official engagements in New York;
- Details of all expenditure by the Irish consulate in New York for the for the various official engagements there;
- Details of all expenditure by the Irish consulate in Los Angeles for Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's visit there between September 25 to 27;
- Copies of all receipts/invoices submitted in support of expenses claims/spending for the trips.
- Details of the full cost to the Department of Foreign Affairs for the trips.”

The Tánaiste, Minister of State McEntee and Minister of State Cannon travelled to the 74<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly in New York on the following dates:

An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, T.D., travelling from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September

Minster of State for European Affairs, Helen McEntee, T.D., travelling from 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September

Minister of State for Diaspora and International Development, Ciarán Cannon, T.D., travelling from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September



A number of officials travelled with the Tánaiste and two Ministers of State. Below is the list of officials that travelled with the Tánaiste and the Ministers of State and their role.

Under section 42 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, records relating to the President are excluded from FOI.

Tánaiste's delegation;

Clare Brosnan – Private Secretary to the Tánaiste

Barbara Cullinane – Policy Director

Laura McGonigle – Special Advisor

Minister of State for European Affairs' delegation;

David Lea – Private Secretary to the Minister of State

Minister of State for Diaspora and International Development's delegation;

Anne Griffin – Private Secretary to the Minister of State

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade only holds records of the flights which this Department paid for. These are provided in the below table.

Passenger	Cost	Airline, Class
Tánaiste Simon Coveney	€1349.67	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Laura McGonigle	€1077.67	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Barbara Cullinane	€1117.56	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Clare Brosnan	€1120.65	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Minister of State Helen McEntee	€1496.23	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Minister of State Ciaran Cannon	€882.80	Aer Lingus, Economy Class
Anne Griffin	€882.80	Aer Lingus, Economy Class

The Tánaiste, Minister of State McEntee and their delegations stayed at the Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel, 141 East 44<sup>th</sup> St., New York at US \$499 per night and Minister of State Cannon and his delegation stayed at the Fitzpatrick Manhattan 687 Lexington Ave. New York at US \$499 per night.

No gifts were bought or given out by any Minister from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



In relation to transport costs, these are detailed in the below table.

Tánaiste	0	Used the Consulate General's car
Minister of State McEntee	US \$219.23	Taxis for the delegation
Minister of State Cannon	US \$85.63	Taxis for the delegation

Below are the costs relating to the various official engagements hosted by the Consulate General in New York

Catering	US \$4,174.92
Photography	US \$700
<b>Total</b>	<b>US \$4,874.92</b>

Below are the costs relating Taoiseach's visit organised by the Consulate General in Los Angeles

Car Hire	US \$1,131.89
LMU Irish Community Event	
- Catering	US \$9,073.65
- Decorations	US \$200.78
- Venue hire	No cost, Loyola Marymount University provided the venue free of charge
Official Opening of Consulate General	
- Car Parking for guests	US \$400
- Flowers	US \$137.29
- Catering	No cost, Kensington Caterers provided food for the event free of charge
Photography for both events	US \$900
<b>Total</b>	<b>US \$10,711.72</b>

At the time of this request no travel or subsistence request had been submitted for any of delegates covered by this request.



### 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](mailto: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 the FOI Unit at [foi@dfa.ie](mailto:foi@dfa.ie), or 01 – 408 2857

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'C Black', is written over a horizontal line.

Conor Black  
United Nations Policy