



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

Our Ref: FOI/Req/19/333

Aine Doyle  
Fianna Fáil Research Office,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

3 January 2020

Dear Ms. Doyle,

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:

*All invoices associated with official entertainment and promotional events hosted by the Department (such as policy launches, media briefings, receptions by the Minister) in 2019 including but not limited to: catering, entertainment, flowers, transport, audio-visual services, printed materials, drinks, and room hire.*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request, which was sent to you on 5 December.

The information redacted from the majority of the records are bank details which for the most part appear not to be in the public domain. In some cases, Section 37(1) Personal Information applies where an individual has provided personal details such as home addresses, personal e-mail addresses and bank details. The redactions carried out on these invoices has no impact on the substance of the information contained therein, so I consider the request granted.

The Department holds a stock of wine and a smaller number of other beverages. This stock facilitates provision of wines suitable for official events at a significant discount from the cost of purchasing them from caterers at the time they are required. In line with expenditure practices overall in the Department, the purchase of new stock is assessed carefully and kept under continuing review to ensure value for money. As the Department cannot provide a breakdown of the costs of wine for individual events, invoices for wine bulk purchases made in 2019 from O'Brien's Wine Off Licence Group are being provided.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosts a range of events throughout the year. These promotional events and visits provide a platform to discuss important issues and support the promotion of Ireland's interests and values internationally, as well as contributing to the development of strong economic, political and cultural links. Listed below is a brief description of each event hosted up to the date of your request.

#### **IRFU Event on 1 February 2019**

This event was hosted on behalf of the Tánaiste by Minister Eoghan Murphy. This event was for an annual rugby match that takes place on the England versus Ireland rugby match day. The teams are made up of representatives from the United Kingdom's Houses of Parliament and the Houses of the Oireachtas. The event promotes parliamentary relations between the UK and Ireland and raises money for charity.

#### **Civil Rights Commemoration Reception on 14 February 2019**

Reception and lecture hosted by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement and in recognition of the work of the Civil Rights Commemoration Committee.

#### **New Policy launch event held in University College Dublin on 28 February 2019**

This event was the launch of Ireland's new White Paper on International Development, titled 'A Better World'. It was attended by 177 people in University College Dublin. The attendees were mainly representatives from a cross-section of Development bodies and NGOs, along with representatives from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other Government Departments.

#### **Permanent Court of Arbitration, Signing Event and Reception on 5 March 2019**

An agreement was made between Ireland and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) to enhance Ireland as a venue for international arbitration. A reception was held to raise awareness about the new opportunities afforded by the agreement. Invitees to the event included members of the legal profession, the judiciary, civil service and the diplomatic corps.

#### **Dublin Chamber of Commerce Networking Event on 9 April 2019**

One of the key roles of the Department is to build relationships and identify opportunities globally for Irish business and to raise the profile of Ireland as a place to invest and trade with. This networking event held with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce was attended by 160 people, including members of business organisations, leaders of Irish businesses, ambassadors and diplomatic staff from countries with embassies based in Dublin. This event provided the opportunity for Irish businesses to establish links with countries which form part of the diplomatic corps in Dublin. Links with the embassies in Ireland are a useful resource to help Irish businesses promote themselves in new markets and learn about various opportunities and challenges for business around the globe. Likewise, it is an opportunity to showcase Ireland as a destination of investment to the diplomatic corps resident in Ireland.

### **US Congressional Delegation Lunch in Iveagh House on 16 April 2019**

This lunch was hosted at Iveagh House as part of a wider high-level visit to Ireland by Representatives from the United States Congress. This delegation included Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Representatives from US States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Washington, Nevada, senior congress officials, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, Minister of State Cannon, Minister of State Mentee, officials from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, other departments and media were also in attendance.

### **US Congressional Delegation Dinner in the General Post Office on 16 April 2019**

A dinner was hosted in honour of the high level US congressional delegation led by the Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and included members of the Friends of Ireland caucus. The delegation were in Ireland for several days on a fact finding mission visit to Ireland and focused on issues including US-Ireland relations, Brexit, trade, visas for Irish in America and the Good Friday Agreement. The delegation met the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Ms Pelosi delivered an address to current and past members of the Dáil and Seanad in Leinster House.

### **Ireland for Finance Strategy launch on 26 April 2019**

The *Ireland for Finance* strategy was launched by the Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe TD, and the Minister of State for Financial Services and Insurance, Michael D'Arcy TD, in April 2019. The new strategy seeks to further develop the international financial services (IFS) sector in Ireland to 2025. The launch event was held in Iveagh House, the home of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It was attended by representatives of government departments, state agencies and industry, and it attracted extensive media coverage, both domestically and internationally.

### **Launch of the third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security on 21 June 2019**

The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade launched Ireland's third National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in University College Cork. There was approximately 100 attendees including those that participated in the extensive consultation toward the development of the plan, women and girls living in Ireland who have suffered the impact of conflict, academics, civil society groups and those interested in the WPS agenda. Particular efforts were made to include asylum seekers and refugees from conflict zones in the consultation process and approximately 25 of those that had participated in the consultation process were present at the launch. A light lunch was provided for attendees for which the invoice is attached. The NAP forms a central element of Ireland's broader commitment to gender equality which is a priority in Ireland's foreign policy, reflected in both The Global Island and the new policy for international development, A Better World.



### **Reception at Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway on 24 June 2019**

This reception was held in the context of the visit of the Prosecutor of the International Court to Ireland to deliver a public lecture at the opening of the annual Summer School on the International Criminal Court (ICC) which is hosted by the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The Summer School was marking its 20th anniversary. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in cooperation with the Centre, arranged this event. Invitees to the event included members of the diplomatic corps, members of the judiciary, members of the legal profession, academics and attendees at the Summer School.

### **Reception for US Congressional Delegation, National Gallery of Ireland on 1 July 2019**

This reception was held on the occasion of a visit by a US Congressional Delegation to Ireland. The event was hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs to welcome the Members of Congress who were accompanied by a business delegation. The reception included a cultural element and supper.

### **OECD DAC Peer Review on 10 September 2019**

This event took place in Iveagh House and was the official reception for the OECD DAC Peer Review of the Irish International Development programme. This reception was held as part of a series of meetings that were held on the week of the 9 to 13 September 2019. This event was attended by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade staff, members of other Government Departments. There were 12 members of the OECD DAC Peer Review team in attendance.

### **Launch of 2018 Annual Report on Ireland's Official Development Assistance on 2 October 2019.**

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, T.D., together with the Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Ciarán Cannon, T.D., launched the 2018 Annual Report on Ireland's Official Development Assistance on Wednesday 2 October 2019. Approximately 100 people attended including representative from government, Civil Society Organisations working in overseas development and members of academic institutions.

### **Expo stakeholder event on 15 October 2019**

Ireland is one of 192 countries taking part in Expo2020, a major global event running from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021 in Dubai. The stakeholder information event provided information of the pavilion, exhibition, and programme structure for the six month programme to those likely to participate in and/or benefit from Ireland's participation in Expo2020. It was held in Iveagh House, the home of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was attended by representatives of government departments, state agencies, universities and cultural institutions. An Open Call for programme content was launched at the event (closing date December 15th).

### **Nordic Baltic 8 Conference on 25 October 2019**

The conference – “Ireland and the Nordic-Baltic 8: Working Together for a Secure, Sustainable and Digital Europe” – brought together leading experts from across Ireland and the Nordic-Baltic states (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden). The half-day conference explored new security challenges, the digital agenda, the sustainable economy, and the prospects for further enhancing wider political, cultural, social and environmental connections between Ireland and the Nordic-Baltic states. It was co-hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, together with the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) and the Ambassadors of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden accredited to Dublin.

### **Screening of Gorongosa at Mary Immaculate College on 18 November 2019**

The screening was held to mark the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict and specifically to highlight Ireland’s role in the restoration of Gorongosa National Park and Ireland’s support to the peace process in Mozambique for the information of the public. The screening was attended by members of the general public, academics and students of Mary Immaculate college’s One World Society and students of Geographies of the Global South and Political Ecology

### **Presidential Distinguished Service Award Dinner on 21 November 2019**

The Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad, administered by the Irish Abroad Unit, is an expression of the importance placed by Ireland on the Global Irish, their contributions and their achievements. The Awards are presented by the President every year. They provide recognition by the Irish State of people living abroad who have given sustained and distinguished service to Ireland or to Irish communities abroad, or on a global or international issue of importance. This year the Awards Ceremony took place at Áras an Uachtaráin on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 and was followed by dinner at Farmleigh House hosted by the Tánaiste and Minister of State Cannon for the Award recipients and their families.

### **IFIAD Conference on 22 November 2019**

This was the 2019 Annual Conference of the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development. The event was hosted in Iveagh House. This was a large event attended by 80 people and the majority of attendees were representing a number of different organisations involved in the agriculture area. The key note speaker at the meeting was President of UN International Fund on Agriculture Development Gilbert Hougbo.

### **Launch of ‘Global Ireland: Ireland’s Strategy for Africa to 2025 on 28 November 2019**

On 28 November 2019, ‘Global Ireland: Ireland’s Strategy for Africa to 2025’ was launched by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney T.D., and Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Ciarán Cannon T.D., in Dublin Castle. The audience of approx. 80 guests included New York-based Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, mainly from African countries; resident African and EU Ambassadors; and

business and civil society representatives. The event engaged key partners and stakeholders in the launch of Ireland's ambitious new Strategy to strengthen political, trade, cultural and people-to-people connections with the continent of Africa.

### 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



Peter Downes

Freedom of Information Office