



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2

Our ref: FOI/REQ/2015/049

Mr. Dan MacGuill

24 June 2015

Dear Mr. MacGuill,

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 in which you requested:

**“A detailed breakdown of all costs and amounts relating to official visit, in May 2015, by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall to the Republic of Ireland.**

- **Please include details and amount relating to accommodation, staffing, transport, security, hospitality including drinks, official photography, event planning, etc.**
- **Where costs involved external contractors or procurement, please specify and provide details of companies/persons, costs, description and location of services rendered etc.”**

Details of costs charged to this Department in relation to this visit are set out in the attached tables. The tables cover payments made or invoices cleared for payment as of today's date. Additional charges may arise and further details will be released to you at a later date once all costs have been finalised.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade did not incur hospitality costs during this visit. Accommodation costs for the visiting delegation were a matter for the British authorities.

Transport services' business for the visit of the Prince of Wales, as is the case for other visits, is allocated on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender for each individual assignment. The transport companies were chosen by a tendering process from the Department's Transport Framework. In accordance with best practices on public procurement, the Department conducts an open tender procedure periodically to establish a framework agreement whereby selected companies provide transportation services to the Department. In 2013 a new tender competition was conducted and five companies were appointed to the panel for a period of three years until mid January 2017, renewable thereafter for a further period of one year subject always to satisfactory performance and the Department's business requirements.

Transport planning for this visit took account of the requirements arising from working in multiple locations in the west of Ireland (Counties Clare, Galway and Sligo) as well as the security and staffing requirements that applied in managing this significant, high level visit.

The visit celebrated the depth and potential of 21st century Irish-British links, while also acknowledging more difficult moments from the past.

Just as he did during this visit - most notably in his speech in Sligo - the Prince of Wales made peace and reconciliation central themes in his previous official visits in 1995 and 2002, both of which came during important stages of the Northern Ireland Peace Process. Reconciliation and dealing with the past are issues that can still challenge us, and were the subject of the Stormont House Agreement reached in Belfast last December.

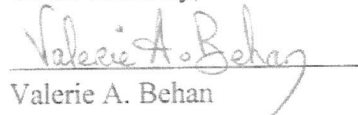
The visit programme showcased modern research and educational links, especially at the Marine Institute in Oranmore, NUI Galway and the Institute of Technology in Sligo. It also added to the international profile of the west of Ireland, in particular the Wild Atlantic Way and also Ireland's cultural heritage as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of WB Yeats' birth. The visit was covered by all major media organisations in Britain, our largest overseas tourism market. Two in five visitors to Ireland come from Britain, bringing over €800 million in tourism revenue annually.

#### **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) of 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 this Department.

Yours sincerely,

  
Valerie A. Behan

Protocol Officer

**D/Foreign Affairs & Trade payments made to date (24<sup>th</sup> June 2015) or cleared for payment in relation to the visit to Ireland by HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, 19-21 May 2015**

Accommodation (in respect of Advance and Visit for DFAT Officials, 22 Staff in total)	€3,582.20
Overtime	Not yet finalised
Subsistence	Not yet finalised
Transport	€20,455
Official photography	Not yet finalised
Printing	€534
<b>Total (at 24<sup>th</sup> June)</b>	<b>€24,571.20</b>

**Services rendered by external contractors selected by a procurement process**

Company	Costs	Description	Location
Optimum	€2,147	Transport – car hire during advance visit	Dublin, Galway and Sligo
Devines	€18,308	Transport – car hire during visit	Dublin, Galway and Sligo
Prontaprint	€534	Printing	Dublin