



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2

25 Oct 2019

Our Ref: FoI/Req/2019/294

Mr. Fergal Blaney,  
Irish Mirror

Dear Mr. Blaney,

I refer to the request, which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for details as follows:

I would like to request all records held in the Department of Foreign Affairs in relation to the recent trip by the President to New York from September 23rd to October 2nd 2019.

To include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Records showing how many people the department organised to travel with the Presidential Delegation to New York;
- Records showing the names, positions, titles of those who travelled and their official functions as part of this particular delegation;
- Records showing the costs of all travel for each and every one of the delegation;
- Records showing what class of travel was booked for all travellers;
- Individually - the President has said he "thinks" he travelled business class;
- Records showing the accommodation details and total costs for all concerned;
- Also, any other records showing any other costs organised or incurred by the department e.g., gifts, presentations, receptions, guest hospitality, photography, flowers etc.

I would also like to acknowledge I telephoned your office on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019 and left you a message.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and its staff are involved in the planning, coordination and execution of overseas travel by the President, including the visits referred to in your request. However, this Department is not in a position to provide access to the information requested as the FOI Act does not apply to records relating to the President (Section 42(h) of the Act).

#### **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 FOI Unit at [foi@dfa.ie](mailto: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



Niamh Marshall  
Protocol Division