



Our Ref: Fol/Req/19319

27 November 2019

Dear Mr Foxe,

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 3 November 2019 as follows:

- Copies of all records held referring or relating to the organisation of travel for Minister Katherine Zappone and/or her advisers for the 74<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly.
- Copies of all invoices/receipts associated with travel arrangements for her and/or her advisers.

Context of Minister Katherine Zappone attendance at 74<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly

The 74<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly involved an unprecedented number of high level events. In addition to the 74<sup>th</sup> UN General Debate, six high level Summits took place. Minister Zappone attended the first UN Youth Climate Summit, and represented Ireland at a number of other events relating to her Ministerial portfolio:

- UNICEF High Level Event: Looking back and aiming forward on child rights
- UNICEF: What's New? Early Childhood Development in Emergencies
- High Level Ministerial Panel on Food Security and the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa
- High Level Event; How Are We Going to Stop the War on Children?
- High Level Event on Climate Change and Girls
- High Level Event on Ending Hate Speech Against LGBTI People in Traditional and Social Media
- High Level Event on Marking 30 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- High Level Event on The Futures of Education
- the Launch Event for "Champions for Generation Equality – Women Leaders of the World"
- Ministerial Meeting of the Women Peace and Security Focal Points Network

Minister Zappone was appointed a Special Envoy of the Government for Ireland's candidature for an elected seat on the United Nations Security Council Campaign for the term 2021 – 2022 by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, T.D. on the 19 September 2019. Minister Zappone also undertook a number of activities in this capacity.



### Release of records – summary

I have identified 3 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant full access to 2 of the records and partially grant 1 record.

Where access has been partially granted or refused, exemptions apply pursuant to the following sections of the FOI Act:

Section 37(1) – Personal Information

### *Section 37 (Personal Information)*

While Section 37(1) provides for the mandatory exemption of records, I am still obliged to consider whether the public interest would be best served by releasing the records in full. Under Section 37(1) a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information.

The information redacted under this provision relates to personal contact information – viz. mobile telephone numbers and the personal email address of individual external contacts of the Department. Otherwise the records are complete. I have considered the public interest in releasing these records in full against the right of individuals to have their personal information remain private and I am satisfied that the public interest is better served by providing partial access to the records in question.

### 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 'Conor Black', is written over a horizontal line.

Conor Black  
United Nations Policy