



Our Ref: FoI/Req/20/016

Date: 7th February 2020

Dear Mr. Blaney,

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 records held in the Department of Foreign Affairs in relation to the recent trip by Junior Minister Ciaran Cannon to Mozambique from November 5th to November 9th 2019.

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

- Records showing how many people the department organised to travel with the ministerial delegation to Mozambique.*
- 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 on each leg of the trip.*
- 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, etc.”*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request, which was sent to you on 21st January 2020.

Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Ciarán Cannon T.D., travelled to Mozambique between the 5th and 9th of December 2019. In addition to political engagements with the Government of Mozambique, a key function of Minister Cannon’s visit was to review the impact of Ireland’s development programme in Mozambique, in particular Ireland’s ongoing support to the peace process there and contribution to relief efforts following devastation caused by Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in early 2019. As part of his role as Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Minister Cannon is responsible for ensuring accountability to the Irish people for the efficient and effective expenditure of funds managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Ireland and overseas. In the discharge of his functions as Minister of State for the Diaspora, Minister Cannon also met with members of the Irish community while in Mozambique.

Minister of State Cannon was accompanied by his Private Secretary, Ms. Anne Griffin, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the Minister's official duties, and Mr. Alan Gibbons, who is the Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Africa Unit, responsible for overseeing Ireland's bilateral engagement with African countries, including the implementation of the Irish Aid programme.

All costs associated with this visit, for which the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade holds records, are provided in the tables below.

Name	Position	Flight costs	Flight class	Accommodation Cost
Mr. Ciarán Cannon, T.D.	Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development	€2,860.98	Business Class	€517.51, total cost for 4 nights. Breakfast included.
Ms. Anne Griffin	Private Secretary to the Minister	€2,860.98	Business Class	€517.51, total cost for 4 nights. Breakfast included.
Mr. Alan Gibbons	Africa Unit Director	€2,326.20	Economy Class	€517.51, total cost for 4 nights. Breakfast included.

Minister of State Cannon presented one gift during the visit, detailed below.

Recipient	Gift	Costs
H.E. Mr. José Pacheco, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Bog Oak Pen	€30

All other costs incurred by the Department in association with this visit are summarised below.

Description	Location	Total cost
Reception	Maputo	€556.83
Lunch Meeting	Maputo	€57.20
Lunch Meeting	Inhambane	€300.30
Dinner meeting	Inhambane	€161.30
Dinner meeting	Chidenguele	€178.90

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. 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, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Aaron Cunningham
Africa Unit