



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2020/076

Date: 29th May 2020

Dear Mr. Foxe

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:

“Copies of all receipts/invoices associated with the visit of Prince William and Kate Middleton to Ireland in early March.

A table/spreadsheet of all costs incurred by the department with regard to the visit.”

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on the 15th April 2020.

I have identified 29 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant access to all of the records.

The information redacted from the majority of the records are bank details and VAT numbers which for the most part appear not to be in the public domain. A person's name mistakenly recorded as the order number on Record 18 was also redacted. As these details do not have an impact on the substance of the information requested, I consider the request granted.

For record 22, only page 2 of 2 of the invoice was saved electronically. As we continue remote working measures, it is not possible to access hard copy files at this time. A request seeking a complete copy of this record can be submitted at a later stage when staff have returned to the office.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade works closely with colleagues in the Department of the Taoiseach, other government Departments, as well as stakeholders such as State Agencies in the development and delivery of programmes for high-level visits that support the promotion of Ireland's interests internationally and contribute to the development of strong economic, political and cultural links.

The recent visit to Ireland by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge was the first undertaken by these senior members of the UK royal family. The intensive and positive media coverage of

their visit helped to highlight the close and essential ties between Ireland and Great Britain in political, social, cultural, and economic spheres. Their visit also provided a valuable platform to highlight the excellent work done by social and environmental organisations in the community across Ireland. The visit took place over three days in Dublin, Co. Meath, Co. Kildare and Galway and was subject to high levels of interest from the public as well as both Irish and international media. The number of registered media covering the visit was 260.

The visit allowed for Government Ministers to engage with the Duke and Duchess on areas of crucial shared interest for the Ireland-UK bilateral relationship, including on marine conservation, agriculture and farming, mental health, sport, the arts and culture. Many of these issues are of focal interest in bilateral initiatives between our governments – they also feature prominently in the work-streams of the British-Irish Council.

The British press covered the visit extensively, including the Duke and Duchesses’ engagements at some of Ireland’s most iconic locations, such as *Áras an Uachtaráin*. There was also widespread coverage of their visit to locations of outstanding natural beauty such as Howth and Galway City Centre. Great Britain is one of Ireland’s largest tourism markets, with 1.6 million holidaymakers in 2017 accounting for 31% of all holidaymakers to the island. Tourism from Great Britain will be ever more important when travel restrictions owing to COVID-19 ease. Such widespread positive exposure of Ireland in the GB market was therefore very positive.

The visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge also allowed for crucial moments of reflection in the Garden of Remembrance on the complex history we have shared across these islands over centuries. Building on themes of reconciliation from earlier visits of the British royal family, these engagements further afforded a very welcome opportunity to look forward to continued co-operation and friendship as we consolidate the achievements of peace over the last decades.

Costs incurred by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade include transport services provided, catering, official photography, printing and airport costs and event facilitation works carried out by the Office of Public Works.

<i>Table of costs incurred by the Department for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Dublin &, County Meath, County Kildare and Galway, 3rd- 5th March 2020</i>	
<i>ITEM</i>	<i>COST (€)</i>
Accommodation	1,238.00
Event, Museum of Literature Ireland	5,365.50
Catering (Delegation and Support Team)	17,541.46
Catering (Media)	8,636.60
Transport (Delegation and Support Team)	8,437.50
Transport (Media)	10,362.00
Airport costs	1,187.50
Photography	4,274.25
Printing & Irish Translation	1,483.47
Gifts	73.09
OPW (Dublin & Galway events)	4,621.73

Transport planning for this visit took account of the requirements arising from working in multiple locations (counties Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Galway) as well as the media, security and staffing requirements that applied in managing this significant, high-level visit. Separately, in accordance with standard international practice relating to the courtesies extended to visiting high-level representatives, facilities at the airport were provided. These services facilitate secure and prompt entry and exit from the airport; a necessary security measure for Heads of State and Government and other high-level representatives.

The final day of the visit involved two locations, Dublin and Galway. Accommodation costs include those for the necessary staff required to facilitate the arrival, various engagements and the timely departure of the Duke and Duchess and delegation back to Dublin. Catering costs for the delegation and support team also include the staffing costs of the catering team. Catering costs for media were based on registration numbers and includes associated staffing costs for the catering team during the three days of the visit.

The Department only avails of the services of external photography where it is warranted, in particular for major events and State occasions. This is a service which the Department provides so that the media can easily and freely avail of photography where their own staff photographers cannot be fully accommodated. Given the high media interest and profile of this visit it was necessary to engage external photography services.

Costs for the official event at the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) include costs incurred for the catering and a musical performance. This official event provided an opportunity for the Tánaiste to formally welcome the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Ireland. It also served as an apt and important platform for the Duke to deliver his reflections on the close and often complex shared history of these islands in the impressive new space of the Museum of Literature. The location also served to showcase the proud Irish literary tradition we celebrate around the world through our Embassy network, with the Tánaiste introducing the Duke and Duchess to many of the leading creative personalities that help to make Ireland a global leader in the arts and culture today.

The Duke's remarks at the event add to the previous valuable contributions delivered by members of the UK royal family on the critical importance of the Ireland-UK bilateral relationship in recent years, including speeches by the Prince of Wales and the Queen. A key component of our relationship with the UK is our joint stewardship of the Good Friday Agreement; and building on the achievements of the peace process to secure continued peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland. The MoLI event offered an opportunity to engage with all traditions on the island, with representatives of the Protestant, unionist, and loyalist traditions as well as the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly attending at the Tánaiste's invitation.

The event proved to be a valuable opportunity for these senior members of the UK royal family to discuss a whole range of issues with representatives from various political, cultural, reconciliation, and arts and civil society groups from across the island of Ireland.

It is standard practice to exchange modest gifts between a Minister and visiting dignitaries during high-level visits. Gifts presented by Ministers of the department are sourced in Ireland or are of Irish interest and are purchased on a basis of the most economically advantageous cost savings arrangements, value for money and high quality products.

In relation to other service costs for each visit, business is allocated based on the most economically advantageous cost savings arrangements, value for money and high quality service and products. Cost savings continue to be sought where possible.

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,

Claire Thompson
Protocol Division
