



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs**

Our Ref: FoI/Req/21/210

Date: 4 October 2021

Dear Mr. Farrell,

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:

*“A list of all of Ireland's UN Special Envoy positions, those appointed to the role, and the duration of the role, during the period 2016 to present*

*A breakdown of all costs associated with Ireland's UN Special Envoy positions, for each of the years from 2016 to 2010, and the first six months of 2021. Please give an itemised list for expenses per individual.”*

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 13 September 2021. Ms. Caitlín Higgins Ní Chinneide has finished in her current position and I have taken on the duty of handling your request. I have identified one record that falls within the scope of your request. I have decided to grant this record.

**The Use of Special Envoy Roles by Ireland**

Special Envoys have been deployed in a specific and time-limited manner over several years to advance particular government priorities. The duration, tasking and support provided has varied in accordance with the nature of the role and the circumstances of the mandate-holder. With regard to your query, it is important to note that Ireland does not have ‘UN Special Envoy positions.’ However, since 2016 a number of envoys have been appointed and, in answer to the first part of your request, these are set out below.

**Special Envoys for the UN Security Council Campaign**

As part of Ireland’s campaign for election to the UN Security Council for the term 2021-2022, twelve Special Envoys were deployed to enhance Ireland’s regional and bilateral engagement, particularly with UN Member States where Ireland has no diplomatic representation. The first 11 of these were appointed in September 2018. The roles were filled by 6 retired and 5 serving diplomats, each identified for their networking knowledge, diplomatic experience, thematic and regional knowledge, and language skills. One more envoy was then appointed in September 2019. All these Special Envoy appointments expired on Ireland’s election to the UN Security Council in June 2020.

The following served as Special Envoys for the UN Security Council campaign:

- **Mr. David Cooney**, former Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and former Ambassador to the United Kingdom and the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the UN in New York;
- **Mr. David Donoghue**, former Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN in New York;
- **Ms. Anne Barrington**, former Ambassador to Japan and Tanzania (Kenya and Burundi) and former Director General of Europe Division, Department of Foreign Affairs;
- **Mr. Pat Hennessy**, former Ambassador to the UAE, Qatar and Kuwait, Italy and Israel;
- **Mr. Justin Harman**, former Ambassador to Argentina (Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay), Spain and the Russian Federation;
- **Mr. Kenneth Thompson**, former Ambassador to Turkey (Azerbaijan, Iran and Pakistan);
- **Ms. Cáit Moran**, then Ambassador to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and former Director at the Development, Cooperation and Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs;
- **Mr. Paul Kavanagh**, Ambassador to Japan and former Ambassador to the UAE, China, France and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York;
- **Ms. Dympna Hayes**, then Ambassador to Sweden and former Director at the Development, Cooperation and Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs;
- **Mr Brian Glynn**, then Director US and Canada Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs, and former Ambassador to Brazil;
- **Mr. Kevin Kelly**, Ambassador to the Netherlands and former UN Director, Department of Foreign Affairs.

In September 2019 **Ms. Katherine Zappone**, then T.D. and Minister for Children and Youth Affairs was also appointed by then Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney T.D., as Special Envoy for the UN Security Council campaign, underlining the importance afforded to Ireland's candidature across the whole of Government. Over the course of the campaign, Ms Zappone promoted Ireland's candidature during numerous engagements, including in 25 bilateral meetings in New York, Dublin and Nairobi. She also addressed the UN on a number of occasions, including on the issue of Children and Armed Conflict.

#### **Special Envoy for Francophone Africa and the Sahel**

Mr. Kenneth Thompson, retired diplomat and former Special Envoy for the UN Security Council campaign, was appointed Special Envoy for francophone Africa and the Sahel in November 2020. The Special Envoy plays a critical role in the development of well-informed and robust policy positions on relevant UN Security Council agenda items, and representing Ireland in a region where Ireland does not have an established Embassy network.

#### **Special Envoy on Food Systems**

Mr. Tom Arnold was appointed Special Envoy on Food Systems on 9 March 2021. The role was jointly proposed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department of Foreign Affairs in preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit which was held in September 2021 and the Nutrition 4 Growth Summit in December 2021. Mr. Arnold's work will also contribute more broadly to the development of a food systems pillar in Irish trade and foreign policy.

### **Costs**

With regard to the second part of your request, i.e. a breakdown of all costs associated with Ireland's "UN Special Envoy" positions, for each of the years from 2016 to 2019, and the first six months of 2021 in an itemised list of expenses per individual, the information you have requested is attached as an annex to this letter.

The role of Special Envoy for the UN Security Council campaign was not remunerated. Appointees who were retired during the period of their appointment were offered a once-off honorarium of €10,000 at the end of their term. The serving diplomats assumed the role in addition to their ongoing responsibilities. Ms Zappone similarly assumed the role in addition to her existing responsibilities as Minister and was not remunerated. Travel and subsistence expenses for all the Special Envoys for the UN Security Council campaign were provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs in line with regulations for the civil service as set out in the relevant circulars issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Remuneration for the role of Special Envoy for francophone Africa and the Sahel consists of an honorarium of €25,000 per annum, travel costs and the provision of health insurance when travelling to the region, all managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs. The appointment expires in December 2022, at the end of our tenure on the UN Security Council.

Mr. Arnold is performing the role of Special Envoy on Food Systems on a pro-bono basis. An honorarium of €5,000 per annum over a two-year period was agreed in principle to cover expenses related to the role. The appointment expires in December 2022.

### **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, 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, (€10 for medical card holders). A copy of the medical card should be provided to avail of the reduced fee. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at [foi@dfa.ie](mailto:foi@dfa.ie), or 01-4082618.

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

---

Eóin Duggan  
Political Division