



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála**  
**Baile Átha Cliath 2**

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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**  
**Dublin 2**

Mr Philip Ryan  
Irish Independent  
Talbot Street  
Dublin 1

01 May 2014

Our Ref: FOI/REQ/14/034

Dear Mr Ryan

I refer to your recent application under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 for access to information (amended) as follows:

*Figures for all travel expenses incurred by the office of Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin while in office between May 2008 – January 2011, including figures by year under the following headings: Travel, Accommodation, Entertainment and Mileage Claims.*

I have decided to grant your request in full. Attached please find details of travel and entertainment expenditure incurred by the Minister's Office from 8 May 2008 to 31 January 2011.

As you will appreciate, the role of Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade includes an obligation to undertake a significant amount of official travel overseas.

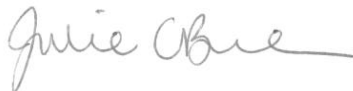
This Department is fully compliant with the Department of Finance guidelines on foreign travel. The Department also operates its own detailed internal travel guidelines and practises which ensure cost effective travel practises, both in Headquarters and throughout our network of 75 diplomatic missions abroad. The central aim of the Departmental travel policy, which applies to both Ministers and officials, is to minimise official travel costs and to achieve value for money for expenditure necessarily incurred, consistent with the effective discharge of official duties.

### **Right of Appeal**

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you can do so in writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 80 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. A fee applies for an appeal, with the exception of an appeal against the imposition of a fee, the level of this fee has been set at €75. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Julie O'Brien', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julie O'Brien

FOI Officer

[Julie.obrien@dfa.ie](mailto:Julie.obrien@dfa.ie)