



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

Our Ref: Fol/Req/2020/119

23 July 2020

Dear Requester,

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 full breakdown of spending by the state in its campaign to win a seat on the UN Security Council. Please break the figures down into as many categories as possible - hotels, flights, entertainment etc. Please provide the names of the companies who were paid in each case.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 24 June 2020.

I have made a decision to grant your request in full.

The information requested regarding a full breakdown of costs of spending by the Department is included in schedule 1 attached. All costs paid up to 17 June 2020 have been included. Regarding your request of the names of companies paid in each case, I include schedule 2. I have made all reasonable efforts to determine company names where possible. As discussed, due to Covid-19 measures, please be advised that the attached list of companies paid may be incomplete.

Costs contained in schedule 1 include costs for materials produced to coincide with the launch event in New York on 2 July 2018 and materials used throughout Ireland's Security Council campaign. Travel related to the promotion of Ireland's candidature is also included in this schedule. Bilateral and multilateral meetings, and other international fora engagements have been availed of by officials to promote Ireland's candidature, our commitment to the UN and multilateralism, and to outline the values we seek to bring to the work of the Security Council during those engagements.

Item 3 includes items ranging in value from €17 to €68 that were gifted during the course of the campaign.

The costs incurred by Ireland, at approximately €860,000, compares favourably with those of our competitors, Norway (estimated €2.8 million) and Canada (estimated €1.5 million).

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Dara Coyne', written over a horizontal line.

Dara Coyne