

18/06/2008

Aine Kerr  
Irish Independent,  
Press Gallery,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin,  
Ireland

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2008/29

Dear Kerr,

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, concerning Costs of trips for Minister Ryan and Minister Killeen on St. Patrick's Day.

I have made a final decision to Part-Grant your request and I attach all relevant information available with this letter. I had been awaiting further detail but it is still not available. If you have any queries regarding this correspondence you can contact me by telephone at the number below. A schedule of the records covered by your request is also attached.

I wish to advise you that, if for any reason you are not satisfied with the outcome of your request, you are entitled to seek a review by appealing the decision. To appeal, you need to write to the FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd, Cavan, Co Cavan. You must make your appeal within 4 weeks of the date of this letter, but the making of a late appeal may be permitted in certain circumstances. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Please note that an application fee for an appeal is currently €75.00 and a reduced fee of €25.00 applies if you are covered by a Medical Card.

If claiming a reduced application fee, the request must also be accompanied by

- The Medical Card registration number
- The name of the issuing Health Board
- Your consent to the verification of these details with that Health Board.

Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money postal order, or personal cheque made payable to "Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources".

On receipt of the fee, you will be advised of when you can expect a decision on your appeal, and the contact details of the person handling the appeal.

Yours sincerely,

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Gerry Clerkin

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
Elm House, Earlsvale Rd  
Cavan  
Co Cavan

Phone: 016783071

Costs of trips for Minister Ryan and Minister Killeen on St. Patrick's Day

Minister Ryan

Record No.	Brief Description & Date of Record	No. of Pages	Relevant Facts	Findings/Conclusions (Public Interest Considerations, if applicable)	Grant/Refuse/Part-Grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
1.	The total cost of the Minister Eamon Ryan's visit to Paris and Minister Tony Killeen's visit to Mexico for the St Patrick's Day celebrations.				Grant		
2.	The number and names of people who travelled on each visit				Grant		
3.	The cost of limousine hire and car rental in each case				Refuse	Section 10	
4.	4) The cost of restaurant bills and copy of receipts in each case				Refuse	Section 10	
5.	5) The cost and name of accommodation and number of nights for each visit				Grant		
6.	The cost of flights and type of flight (eg first class, business class, economy) for each visit				Grant		

7.	The costs and details of gifts purchased for presentation to the host country in each visit				Grant		
8.	The cost of the following: use of VIP lounge, cost of dress suit hire or purchase for each Minister.				Grant		
9.	Any other entertainment or hospitality costs for each visit				Refuse	Section 10	
10.	A copy of the official itinerary for each visit.				Grant		

Minister of State Killeen

Record No.	Brief Description & Date of Record	No. of Pages	Relevant Facts	Findings/Conclusions (Public Interest Considerations, if applicable)	Grant/Refuse/Part-Grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
1.	The total cost of the Minister Eamon Ryan's visit to Paris and Minister Tony Killeen's visit to Mexico for the St Patrick's Day celebrations.				Part Grant	Section 10	
2.	The number and names of people who travelled on each visit				Grant		

3.	The cost of limousine hire and car rental in each case					Refuse	Section 10	
4.	The cost of restaurant bills and copy of receipts in each case					Grant		
5.	The cost and name of accommodation and number of nights for each visit					Refuse	Section 10	
6.	The cost of flights and type of flight (eg first class, business class, economy) for each visit					Grant		
7.	The costs and details of gifts purchased for presentation to the host country in each visit					Grant		
8.	The cost of the following: use of VIP lounge, cost of dress suit hire or purchase for each Minister.					Refuse	Section 10	
9.	Any other entertainment or hospitality costs for each visit					Refuse	Section 10	
10.	A copy of the official itinerary for each visit.					Grant		

## St Patrick's Day 2008 - Mexico City

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

21.35 Arrive Benito Juarez Airport, Mexico

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March

9.00 Breakfast briefing meeting with Ambassador

11.00 Meeting with Subsecretario Fernando Tudela, Minister of State with responsibility for Climate Change in the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources

12.30 Meeting with Director General, Mr. Aldo Flores Quiroga, Ministry of Energy

18.00 Meeting with Enterprise Ireland representative in Mexico

19.00 Mr. Agustín Basave, author in Irish Mexican Affairs

19.30 Official dinner in the Residence of the Ambassador

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

0900 Meeting with Mr. Norberto Roque Díaz de León, General Directorate of Mines in the Economics Ministry

1200 Reception and official opening of the new Residence of the Ambassador

1630 Meeting with various business groups

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>

Day visit to San Angel and the San Patricio Battalion Monument

### Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>

9am Mass with Irish Community

Travel to and visit to Teotihuacán

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup>

9.30am

Travel to Taxco

Tour of mining town and trip to silver mine

16.30

Meeting to discuss historical and current silver mining in Mexico

Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup>

1100

Meeting with Mr. Juan C. Mata Sandoval, Director General of the National Energy Saving Commission

1430

Visit to the Museum of Anthropology

1830

Depart hotel for Benito Juaraz airport

Delegation: Minister of State Tony Killeen, T.D., Mrs Elizabeth Killeen, Mr. Martin Brennan, Assistant Secretary and Ms. Aoife McQuillan- Private Secretary to Minister Killeen

Minister of State Tony Killeen  
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural  
Resources  
29-31 Adelaide Road  
Dublin 2.

Minister of State's Office  
Adelaide Road, Dublin 2

# Memo

To: Mr. Gerry Clerkin  
From: Aoife McQuillan  
CC  
Date: 25/04/2008  
Re: Freedom of Information Request (Aine Kerr)

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Gerry,

Please find attached records in reply to the request concerning the Minister of State's recent visit to Mexico.

Tab 1 - Reply as appropriate the questions asked. (Replies came from various sources and have been compiled into one document).

Tab 2 - Itinerary

Tab 3 - Relevant receipt in answer to question 3 of the request.

Please note, the total costs of flights are for 4 people. I have included Assistant Secretary Martin Brennan's cost. However they were not charged to this office. Amount was obtained from Travel Booking section.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



*Aoife McQuillan*  
Private Secretary to Minister of State Tony Killeen T.D.

t. 00353 1 678 2024  
f. 00353 1 661 0061  
Leinster House: 00353 1 618 3806

**Visit to Paris by Minister Eamon Ryan T.D.  
Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources  
17-18 March 2008**

**Programme**

**Sunday 16 March**

- 22.30 Arrive Charles de Gaulle Terminal 2F  
Air France Flight 5013
- Greeted by Gerald Anglely, Embassy of Ireland
- 23.00 (approx) Depart airport by RER train

**Monday 17 March**

- 11.00 Arrive Irish Cultural Centre
- Greeted by Sheila Pratschke, Director of the Centre
- Tour of the Centre (including Old Library, Chapel and Mediatheque)
- 12.00 Depart Irish Cultural Centre (by car)
- 12.30 Arrive EUFOR Operational HQ, Mont Valerien
- St. Patrick's Day reception for Irish members of EUFOR
- 13.30 Depart Mont Valerien
- 14.00 Arrive Hotel Raphael
- 14.45 Depart Hotel Raphael
- 15.15 *Arrive Hotel de Ville (Mayor's Office)*
- (tbc) *Presentation and trial of Velib bicycle hire system*
- 16.15 *Depart Hotel de Ville*
- 16.45 Return to Raphael hotel
- 17.20 Depart hotel (on foot)
- 17.25 Arrive Embassy of Ireland
- 17.45 Join Enterprise Ireland "eLearning event"

*Speaking opportunity*

18.30

Embassy St Patrick's Day reception starts

*Speaking opportunity*

20.30

Informal dinner, Le Cave Lanrezac

Return to hotel on foot

**Tuesday 18 March**

0525

Depart Hotel Raphael on foot to Avenue Carnot

0545

Air France coach to airport

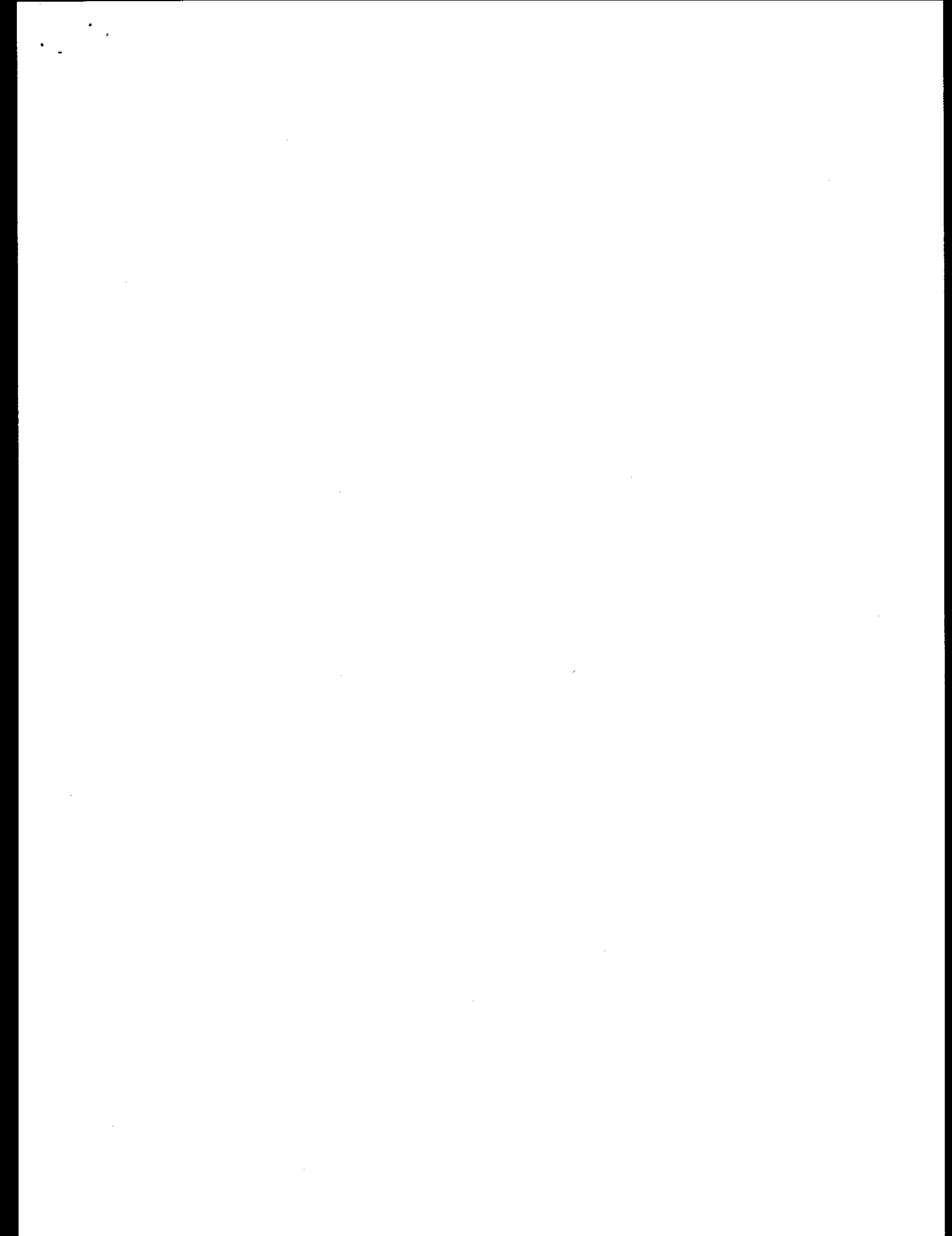
0715

Air France flight AF5002  
Charles de Gaulle Airport Terminal 2F

**FOI Request – April 2008**

**Ms Áine Kerr, Political Correspondent, The Irish Independent**

Information Sought	Information available:
1. The total cost of the Minister Eamon Ryan's visit to Paris and Minister Tony Killeen's visit to Mexico for the St Patrick's Day celebrations.	Minister Ryan: Hotel - €335 approx. (based on quotation from DFA) Flights - €503.15 Gifts - €121.95
2. The number and names of people who travelled on each visit.	One: 1/ Mr Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
3. The cost of limousine hire and car rental in each case.	None
4. The cost of restaurant bills and copy of receipts in each case.	None
5. The cost and name of accommodation and number of nights for each visit	Hôtel Raphaël – 17, avenue Kléber, 75016 Paris  Cost: €335 x 1 night (based on quotation from DFA)
6. The cost of flights and type of flight (eg first class, business class, economy) for each visit	Return Flight DUB – CDG in economy class = €503.15
7. The costs and details of gifts purchased for presentation to the host country in each visit	Brooch x 1 = €75.50 Pen x 2 = €60.00 Total = €121.95 (incl. 10% discount)
8. The cost of the following: use of VIP lounge, cost of dress suit hire or purchase for each Minister.	VIP ex Dublin – no bill yet
9. Any other entertainment or hospitality costs for each visit	None
10. A copy of the official itinerary for each visit.	A copy is attached





Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádurtha

15<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

Áine Kerr,  
The Irish Independent,  
Press Gallery,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

FOI/2008/28

Dear Ms Kerr,

I refer to the Freedom of Information request received in this office on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 along with associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Mr. Gerry Clerkin, Co-Ordination, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd., Cavan.

You can expect to receive your decision by the 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

If you have not heard from us when the time allocated has expired, you are automatically entitled to appeal to the Department for a review of the matter. This review proceeds on the legal basis that the initial request is considered to be refused once the specified time for responding to it has expired.

You should also be aware that you are entitled to a review of the decision if your request is refused, or if you are for any reason dissatisfied with the outcome of your request. The review is a full and new examination of the matter carried out by a more senior member of staff of this Department. In the event that you need to make an appeal, you can do so by writing to Mr. Frank O'Brien, FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd., Cavan. Please note that there is a charge for all appeals of FOI requests. This charge is currently €75.00. A reduced fee of €25.00 applies if you are the holder of a Medical Card.

Please note that the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources has a policy of posting a summary of your request, your name and address and the subsequent reply on the Department's website for reference purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Rabbitte  
FOI Unit  
PH: 01 6782903

# CLARIFIED COPY.

Press Gallery,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

I am making the following request under the Freedom of Information Act. I am including a cheque for €15.

- 1) The total cost of the Minister Eamon Ryan's visit to Paris and Minister Tony Killeen's visit to Mexico for the St Patrick's Day celebrations.
- 2) The number and names of people who travelled on each visit
- 3) The cost of limousine hire and car rental in each case
- 4) The cost of restaurant bills and copy of receipts in each case
- 5) The cost and name of accommodation and number of nights for each visit
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- 8) The cost of the following: use of VIP lounge, cost of dress suit hire or purchase for each Minister.
- 9) Any other entertainment or hospitality costs for each visit
- 10) A copy of the official itinerary for each visit.

My preferred means of accessing these records is by post.

Regards,  
Áine Kerr  
Political Correspondent  
The Irish Independent  
01 6183419  
086 085 0655

## Mary Rabbitte

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**From:** aine kerr [ainekerr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** 07 April 2008 17:08  
**To:** Mary Rabbitte  
**Subject:** Indo FOI attached

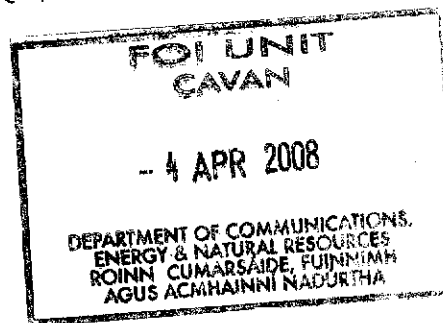
**Attachments:** energy 3.doc



energy 3.doc (27  
KB)

Aine Kerr  
Political Correspondent  
The Irish Independent  
01 6183419  
086 085 0655

*€15 Cash received*



Press Gallery,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008

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- 9) Any other entertainment or hospitality costs for each visit
- 10) A copy of the official itinerary for each visit.

My preferred means of accessing these records is by post.

Regards,  
Áine Kerr  
Political Correspondent  
The Irish Independent  
01 6183419  
086 085 0655