

Department of Communications,
Marine and Natural Resources

*An Roinn Cumarsáide,
Mara agus Acmhainní Nádurtha*

Office of the Minister

Oifig an Aire

12/02/2007

Ms Suzanne Morgan
Newstalk
3rd Floor
Warrington House
Mount St Crescent
Dublin 2

FOI/0006/2007

Dear Ms Morgan

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Act for access to records held by this Department requesting information re travel abroad by the Minister, Junior Minister and any others for the St Patrick's Day period for both 2005 and 2006. I enclose information which relates to the Minister.

Your request has been granted and I attach all relevant information with this letter. Please find included a schedule of all records associated with your request, detailing the order in which they are filed here.

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 of the case by appealing the decision to this Department's FOI Internal Review Board. To appeal, you need to write to Mr Frank O'Brien, FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, 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 appropriate circumstances. The appeal 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 "The Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources".

On receipt of the fee, an acknowledgement letter will be sent to you outlining details of when you can expect a decision on your appeal, and the contact details of the person handling the appeal.

Yours sincerely


Donna Comer
Minister's Office Division
Ph: 01 6782005

Beidh fáilte roimh comhfhreagras as Gaeilge

Dublin 2
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Tel +353 1 678 9807
LoCall 1890 44 99 00
Fax +353 1 678 2029
Email: minister.dempsey@dcmnr.gov.ie
www.dcmnr.gov.ie

Communications

Broadcasting

Energy

Marine

Natural Resources

2005

Minister Dempsey did not travel during the St. Patrick's Day period 2005.

2006

Destination: California, USA

Duration of Stay: 09 – 18 March

Number within each party: Minister Noel Dempsey
Ms Grace Cappock, Press Adviser
Ms Tanya Harrington, Policy Coordinator
Ms Carina O'Donoghue, Private Secretary
Mr Peter O'Neill, Assistant Secretary for
Communications
Mr Kenneth Spratt, Department of Communications,
Marine and Natural Resources Attache to Washington

Cost of Travel:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Minister Noel Dempsey | First Class | €9582.77 |
| Ms Grace Cappock | Business Class | €4671.56 |
| Ms Tanya Harrington | Business Class | €4671.56 |
| Ms Carina O'Donoghue | Business Class | €4671.56 |
| Mr Peter O'Neill | Business Class | €5447.50 |
| Mr Kenneth Spratt | N/A | |

Cost of Accommodation:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Minister Noel Dempsey | €2103 |
| Ms Grace Cappock | €917 |
| Ms Tanya Harrington | €917 |
| Ms Carina O'Donoghue | €917 |
| Mr Peter O'Neill | €917 |
| Mr Kenneth Spratt | €917 |

Other Expenses:

Food:

€1715.90

Chauffeurs and Car Hire:

€5959.50

Meeting Expenses, e.g. room hire:

€441.06

Hotel Charges:

€93.51

Total Cost: €43942.92



16th January, 2007

Ms Suzanne Morgan,
Newstalk,
3rd Floor Warrington House,
Mount St Crescent,
Dublin 2.

FOI/0005/2007
FOI/0006/2007

Dear Ms Morgan,

I refer to the Freedom of Information request received in this office on 15th January, 2007 along with the associated fee.

The officer dealing with the part of your request (Ref no. FOI/0006/2007) which relates to the Minister will be Ms Donna Comer, Minister's Office, Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Adelaide Rd., Dublin 2. She can be contacted at 01 6782005. The officer dealing with the part of your request (Ref no. FOI/0005/2007) which relates to the Junior Minister is Mr. John Creaney, Minister of States Office, Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2. He can be contacted at 01 6782021.

A final decision on your request will normally be sent to you within 4 weeks of receipt of your request. This means that you can expect to receive your decision by the 12th February, 2007.

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, Marine & 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, Marine & 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 Rabbette
FOI Unit
PH: 01 6782903

From: "Suzanne Morgan" <suzanne@newstalk.ie>
To: foi.unit@dcmnr.gov.ie
Date: 01/08/2007 10:58 AM
Subject: FOI Request

Hi there,

I am looking for information under the Freedom of Information Act from the Department in relation to travel abroad by the Minister, Junior Minister and any others for the St Patrick's Day period for both 2005 and 2006, namely:

- Destination
- Duration of stay
- Number within each party, both staff and non-staff
- A breakdown of cost of travel for flights (eg. cost per head per ticket, type of ticket i.e. first class, business or economy)
- A breakdown of cost of accomodation
- A breakdown on other expenses incurred during the trip (eg. food & beverages)

A print-out of this email as well as a cheque for €15 made payable to the Department will be sent out today.

Regards,

Suzanne Morgan.

Suzanne Morgan,
Reporter & Researcher,
Your Call with Brenda Power
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