



Oifig an Aire Oiliúint agus Scileanna
Office of the Minister for Training and Skills

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9 June 2016

REF: FOI 2016/184

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by the Department of Education and Skills:

- copies of all invoices and receipts relating to any travel undertaken by an officeholder, minister, OR minister of state for St Patrick's Day 2016. Copies of all invoices and receipts relating to a spouse or partner if they travelled with the officeholder, minister OR minister of state.
- a copy of the itinerary for the above trip.

- copies of any records relating to the repayment of expenses for mileage or any other expense category by an officeholder, minister OR minister of state at your Department to cover the period 1 January 2014 to date of receipt of this request. This request excludes any such records already released to me.

I made a final decision to refuse Part 1 of your request on 9 June 2016 in accordance with the requirements of section 15(1)(a) which states:

- "15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –
- (a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken,"

The records concerned do not exist and this request is refused on this basis. I wish to advise that no such records exist in this Department as Minister of State Damien English did not travel for St. Patrick's Day 2016.

I made a final decision to grant Part 2 of your request on 9 June 2016.

A schedule of records is attached at the end of this letter. It shows the documents that this Department considers relevant to your request. It also gives you a summary and an overview of the decision as a whole.

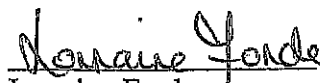
Accordingly, copies of the records are now enclosed.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your request you may appeal this decision. In the event that you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. (Payment should be made by way of personal cheque or postal money order to the accountant, the Department of Education and Skills. Please note that from 19 September, 2014, the Department of Education and Skills will no longer accept cheque payments from business users in accordance with the Department of Finance Circular 01/2013. For further information regarding payment methods for business users, please email foi@education.gov.ie).

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. A week is defined in the Act to mean 5 consecutive weekdays, excluding Saturdays and public holidays (Sundays are also excluded, as they are not weekdays). The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

If you have any queries regarding this correspondence you can contact me by telephone at (01) 889 2273.*

Yours sincerely,



Lorraine Forde,
Minister of State's Office.