

21,961.06

KEN FOXE
SUNDAY TRIBUNE

Beijing - Olympics: 4-23 August 2008

I refer to the previous request that you made under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 for details relating to Minister Martin Cullen's trip to Beijing for the Olympic games this year.

You will be aware that costs of flights and accommodation for events such as the Olympics are always at a high premium as both flights and accommodation are heavily booked. Both this Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs, who were involved in the procuring of accommodation, made every effort to secure the best possible rates for the Minister and his Delegation. The details of the trip are set out below.

1. The Minister's Delegation numbered 4 and consisted of the Minister and 3 officials (the Ministers Private Secretary, the Assistant Secretary General responsible for Sport and the Ministers Special Advisor)
2. Flight details for all flights are as follows:

Outbound Flights – Dublin to Abu Dhabi – Minister Cullen, First Class.
Onward Flight Abu Dhabi to Beijing -Minister Cullen, Business Class

Inbound Flights - Hong Kong to London - Minister Cullen, First Class,
London to Dublin - The Minister travelled Economy

The cost of these flights amounted to €7,106.00

Internal Flights

On the first internal flight, the Minister travelled Economy down to Hong Kong.
On the return to Beijing the Minister travelled Business Class

On the second internal flight to Hong Kong, the Minister travelled Business Class

The cost of all flights to and from Hong Kong amounted to €1,978.00

3. The Minister and his Delegation were in Beijing and Hong Kong for a total of 19 nights. The cost of the hotel accommodation for the Minister per night was €528.00 9081
 4. The official Civil Service subsistence rate (Conference rate) for the Minister amounted to €149.74 per day. There were no additional claims by the Minister or the delegation in respect of Dinners/Lunches during the trip. 10,032
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Monday, August 4

- All Day -

BANK HOLIDAY - DEPART FOR BEIJING

Tuesday, August 5

10:00 11:00

Briefing with representatives of Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XX1X Olympiad (BOCOG)

14:00 15:00

Attend BOCOG Accreditation Centre

18:00 20:00

Briefing Dinner with Irish Ambassador

Wednesday, August 6

18:00 20:00

Attend function hosted by Olympic Council of Ireland

Thursday, August 7

10:00 13:00

Attend Fourth Meeting, Plenary Session, Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, China World Hotel

14:00 16:00

Visit Irish Embassy, Beijing - Olympic-related briefing, meet staff and officials

18:00 19:00

Attend Launch of publication 'Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace - recommendations to Government' at the British Colombia Candada Pavilion, Beijing

Friday, August 8

19:00 23:45

Attend Opening Ceremony of the XX1X Olympiad, National Stadium, Beijing

Saturday, August 9

- All Day -

For Info Only Arrival of Sea Stallion at Roskilde Denmark TBC

10:00 13:00

Attend Mens Road Race

14:00 18:00

Attend Workers' Gymnasium Boxing Events

18:00 23:45

Attend National Indoor Stadium - Mens Qualification Gymnastics

Sunday, August 10

10:00 13:00

Attend National Aquatic Centre

14:00 18:00

Attend Workers' Gymnasium, Boxing Events

14:00 18:00

Attend Shunyi Olympic Rowing Canoeing Park (Beijing)

18:00 23:45

Attend Beijing Olympic Basketball Gymnasium (Mens Group B Basketball)

Monday, August 11

13:00 14:30

Attend Reception French Ambassador's Residence Beijing

14:30 16:30

Attend EU Ministers of Sport Meeting in French Embassy, Beijing

17:00 18:00

Depart for Hong Kong

18:00 18:30

Arrive at Hong Kong International Airport. Greeted by Honorary Consul and a representative from Hong Kong Home Affairs Bureau. Transfer to the Island Shrangri La Hotel

20:00 00:00

Attend Briefing Dinner hosted by Honorary Consul

Tuesday, August 12

14:00 18:00

Visit to Hong Kong Olympic Equestrian Venue, Sha Tin. Greeted on arrival

meet members of Irish Eventing Team

Wednesday, August 13

10:00	12:00	Meeting with Hutchinson Telecom, subsidiary of Hutchinson Telecommunications International Ltd, owners of 3G Ireland
13:00	14:30	Lunch with Irish Community Business Leaders, hosted by Irish Honorary Consul, Hong Kong
17:00	18:00	Depart Hong Kong International Airport for Beijing

Thursday, August 14

10:00	13:00	Attend National Aquatic Centre
14:00	17:00	Attend Workers Gymnasium, Boxing Events
17:00	18:00	Interviews with Beijing TV (BTV) and China Daily Newspaper
18:00	23:45	Attend Workers Gymnasium - Boxing Events

Friday, August 15

10:00	13:00	Attend National Aquatic Centre
14:00	16:00	Visit Olympic Village. Tour of facilities with OCI. Meet Team Ireland athletes, coaches and support staff
14:00	16:00	Attend National Stadium - Athletics
16:00	16:30	Visit Chinese Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Olympic Village
16:00	18:00	Attend Workers Gymnasium - Boxing Events
16:30	17:30	Attend Laoshan Velodrome, Track Cycling
17:30	18:30	Informal discussion with Sebastian Coe, Chairman London 2012 (LOCOG Board)
18:30	23:45	Attend National Stadium - Athletics

Saturday, August 16

10:00	13:00	Attend National Aquatic Centre
14:00	16:00	Attend National Stadium - Athletics
16:00	18:00	Attend Workers Gymnasium - Boxing Events
18:00	23:45	Attend National Stadium - Athletics

Sunday, August 17

10:00	13:00	Attend National Aquatic Centre
14:00	15:00	Attend Reception and Address Team Ireland - athletes, staff and supporters plus Irish Community - venue Irish Embassy - hosted by Irish Ambassador
15:00	18:00	Attend Laoshan Velodrome - Cycling
18:00	23:45	Attend National Stadium - Athletics

Monday, August 18

10:00	13:00	Visit National Centre for the Performing Arts - National Theatre 'The Egg' Beijing. Guided tour of its Opera House, Concert Hall and Theatre. Meet Chinese concert pianist Lang Lang. View rehearsal of the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of John Storgards
18:00	23:45	Attend National Stadium - Athletics

Tuesday, August 19

10:00	11:00	Meeting with Irish Sports Council
11:00	12:00	Meeting with Irish Ambassador to China
14:00	18:00	Attend Workers Gymnasium - Boxing Events
18:00	20:00	Attend Beijing Workers Stadium - 2nd half of semi final Soccer Match

18:00	23:45	Attend National Stadium - Athletics
<u>Thursday, August 21</u>		
12:00	13:00	Depart Beijing for Hong Kong
13:00	14:00	Arrive Hong Kong International Airport. Greeted by representative of Hong Kong Home Affairs Bureau. Transfer to Island Shangri La Hotel
14:00	14:30	Depart for Olympic Equestrian Venue, Sha Tin
15:00	16:00	View Showjumping Individual Final Round A View Showjumping Individual Final Round B

<u>Friday, August 22</u>		
09:00	23:00	Remain in Hong Kong - Airport closed due to bad weather / typhoon

<u>Saturday, August 23</u>		
- All Day -		
10:00	23:00	RETURN FROM BEIJING Depart Hong Kong International Airport for Dublin via London Heathrow