

Question:

Under Freedom of Information regulations I would like to know:-

Please provide a breakdown of the cost of the Minister's visit to the US in March 2026.

Please provide :

1. A breakdown of the cost to public funds for travel to the USA by the Health Minister, Mike Nesbitt.
2. Please include travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for all visits in 2025 and 2026. Please also include visit itineraries.
3. Please include any departmental post-visit reports including assessments of the cost effectiveness of the visits.
4. The response should include information on all media including digital communication such as WhatsApp.

Response:

A breakdown of the cost to public funds for travel to the USA by the Health Minister, Mike Nesbitt. Please include travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for all visits in 2025 and 2026.

The table below sets out the breakdown of the costs to public funds for travel to the USA in March 2025. The costs are for 3 people: the Health Minister, the Special Advisor and the Minister's Private Secretary. All travel by all parties was Economy class.

2025	Cost
FLIGHTS	£1,669.50
ACCOMMODATION	£5,310.00
MEALS	£256.91
TRANSPORT	£367.74
TOTAL COST	£7,604.15

The table below sets out the breakdown of the costs to public funds for travel to the USA in March 2026. The costs are for 3 people: the Health Minister, the Special Advisor and the Minister's Private Secretary. All travel by all parties was Economy class. An internal flight from Washington to Nashville has also been included.

2026	COST
FLIGHTS	£4,548.00
ACCOMMODATION 3 Nights Washington	£1,878.00
ACCOMMODATION 3 Nights Nashville	£2,682.00
MEALS	£96.74
TRANSPORT (UBER/METRO)	£588.19
OTHER COSTS (20KG BAGGAGE X3 FOR INTERNAL FLIGHT)	£81.48
TOTAL COST	£9,874.41

The itineraries for 2025 and 2026 have been attached as two separate PDF documents. These are available on request.

The post visit report for 2025 has been attached as a separate document with this response. Any media including digital communication has been included in the report. A departmental post visit report has not been completed for 2026 given that the visit took place as recently as March. In line with NICS policies and procedures post visit reports and evaluations should be completed within 6 months of the event and therefore an evaluation will be completed in line with this guidance.

This report is available on request.

Date response issued: 21/04/26
Reference Number: DOH/2026-0068