



An Chartlann Náisiúnta **National Archives**

Reference Code:	2021/93/57
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Cost of Strand 2

The British side have now provided an amended copy of their paper on the cost of Strand 2 which was provided to us yesterday and copied to Mary Whelan in the Joint Secretary's SF 677 of 26 June 1991. It is stressed that this paper conveys tentative "ballpark" figures only and that any comments on apportionment of expenses between the two sides are speculative.

Changes from the previous paper are as follows :

- Para 2 : Breakdown of figure of £25,000 estimate for two days' subsistence for delegates inserted.
- Para 3 : Speculative figures on cost of Independent Chairman removed pending return of officials from Australia.
- Para 4 (b) : "One possibility" replaces "the most concrete proposal" with reference to Maryfield option.
- VAT (17.5%) and fees (16 - 20%) added to original estimate of cost of Maryfield renovations.
- Para 5 : "Hope" that office furniture will return to storage, avoiding additional cost to "either side" replaces the expectation that this will happen and avoid additional cost "to the Irish side".
- Para 6 : Estimate of additional expenses is increased. New sentence suggests that a number of delegates do not actually claim expenses.

ND

Nessa Delaney
27 June 1991

ACCOMMODATION FOR THE IRISH SIDE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

4. (a) It has been agreed that the Taoiseach, 3 Ministers and up to 6 officials from the Irish side can stay at Stormont House during the Belfast leg of Strand II. The estimated cost of an overnight stay for 10 people, including breakfast and dinner would be just over £300. This suggests something less than £1,000 per week, on the assumption that the Irish side would not stay more than 3 nights in any one week, and probably only 2. Indeed, as not all Ministers would be present throughout, the full cost over 10 weeks should be less than £10,000.

(b) Final decisions have yet to be taken about where the balance of the Irish delegation should stay. One possibility is that 6 ensuite bedrooms are constructed on the ground floor of Maryfield, with a further bathroom to be added upstairs, where there are 2 further bedrooms normally spare during the week. This would allow a total of 8 people in all. Any extra people would have to be provided for elsewhere at safe accommodation. The estimated total cost of making these arrangements at Maryfield could be in the region of £200,000, including VAT or fees. Because of other uncertainties, it is difficult to quantify the nightly cost of additional safe accommodation and, indeed, the cost of transportation for that element of the delegation to be located at Maryfield. Within the spirit of the overall agreement on burden sharing for Strand II, the British side favours a 50:50 arrangement which suggests around £100,000 for the construction costs. It is stressed, however, that there are other alternatives involving the accommodation of Irish delegates at separate commercial premises which would have to be secured. But in the event of deciding on the Maryfield option, there would then be the further question of whether the Irish side should provide their own furniture.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

STRAND II: COSTS

INTRODUCTION

The Irish side have asked for a rough estimate from the British side of the likely costs of mounting Strand II. There is still much detailed work to be done and both sides have yet to negotiate precisely how the burden is to be shared. Moreover, it is still unclear how long Strand II will last and, indeed, whether it will be reconvened on one or more occasions in the future. For the moment therefore, it is suggested that for planning purposes we simply assume a period of 10 consecutive weeks.

2. It is also assumed that the British side will cover the full cost of mounting the opening of Strand II at a suitable London venue on the basis that the Irish side will do likewise in relation to the Dublin venue. It is worth flagging here, however, that the cost of 2 days subsistence etc for delegates could be in the region of £25,000. The assumptions here are that there would be 4 delegations of 10 plus 3 support staff travelling to London, that travel costs would be £215 per unit, that subsistence for each delegate would be 3 nights at £100 per night and that all would claim £78.50 out of pocket allowance for the 3 day period.

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN

3. Senior officials from the British and Irish sides are currently in Australia to discuss the final terms on which the Independent Chairman will be engaged. It is therefore not possible at this stage to determine with any accuracy what the eventual costs might be. It is suggested that any speculation on Chairman's costs is pointless until officials return from Australia next week.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AT PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

5. ● Work is already in hand to prepare a suitable range of offices for Irish Ministers and officials along the back corridor on the first floor at Parliament Buildings. The estimated cost of this, including decoration, locks and portering of furniture is approximately £50,000. On the basis of discussions which have already taken place with the Irish side, the estimated cost of telephones would be an additional £20,000. We continue to negotiate with DoE on the provision of office furniture which could be as high as £35,000, though it is being argued that as this will return to storage after use, in the hope that there is no additional cost to either side. Next would come the cost of word processing equipment and furniture which would be estimated at £30,000.

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

6. As to the Chairman's staff, the cost of a Grade 7 Private Secretary and a Personal Assistant might amount to approximately £10,000 over a 10 week period. A much more substantial sum would be the cost of meeting Party expenses of delegates during the Belfast leg which could be as high as £70,000 per month or £175,000 for 10 weeks. However, profiles so far suggest that a number of delegates do not actually claim expenses, but for the purposes of this note only, it is assumed that both sides would share these expenses equally whatever the outturn.

2 months delivery on security FAX

CONFIDENTIAL

PROPOSE: 1 for Security (Netherlands FAX to be reviewed) /
1 for WINGEN HSE.

Consider service to Govt. Bldgs.

Supp. Working Estimate - clarify.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the size of the Delegation and rank of each member?
2. What is the size of the Support Group and rank of each member?
3. Any restrictions on (even senior) members of delegations, and officials sharing offices.

YBS - 4. Any requirements for large general office to provide administrative support?

5. What sort of telephone system would be required? Will it need facilities such as, Direct lines (Fax and international), Trapping, internal extensions, 3rd party listening, secure line? Full details of trapping arrangements would be required?

6. Nature and extent of security furniture requirements.

7. Nature and extent of WP system? - Note book PCs. (6) - 3 loans. 1895 Toshiba 100% Aired Disk. ? external hard disk.

8. Number and location (by office) of "clean" 13 amp power supply points for use with WP system.

9. Are there any special requirements on access to the Building?

10. Is it likely that Ministers or their support staff will wish to be in attendance before 9.00 am?

11. Any restrictions on the cleaners accessing the rooms?

- agreed times
- supervised.