

From: Donald J. Trump <info@donaldtrump.com>

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To:

Subject: FOLLOW THE MONEY: DENIS O'BRIEN – ANOTHER CORRUPT CLINTON FRIEND



- SEPTEMBER 28 2016 -

FOLLOW THE MONEY: DENIS O'BRIEN – ANOTHER CORRUPT CLINTON FRIEND

**DENIS O'BRIEN IS A BILLIONAIRE "CELL PHONE TYCOON" WITH
CLOSE TIES TO THE CLINTONS AND ALSO ONE OF THE "MOST
REVEILED FIGURES" IN IRELAND**

Denis O'Brien Is A "Cell Phone Tycoon" Who Owns Digicel, "A Mobile Phone Network Provider That Operates In Central America, The Caribbean, And The Pacific Islands." "Cell phone tycoon Denis O'Brien runs and owns 94% of Digicel, a mobile phone network provider that operates in Central America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. The company was supposed to hold its initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange in 2015 but pulled it in October due to "volatility" in the markets. In recent years, O'Brien has been on a deal-making binge in Ireland, snapping up distressed assets on the cheap and turning them around." ("#219 Denis O'Brien," [Forbes](#), Accessed 4/26/16)

• **NOTE: As Of April 26, 2016, O'Brien Is Worth \$6.1 Billion USD.** ("#219 Denis O'Brien," [Forbes](#), Accessed 4/26/16)

O'Brien Also Founded The Esat Telecom Group PLC And Is The Chair Of

The Clinton Global Initiative Haiti Action Network. “O’Brien also founded the Esat Telecom Group plc. He is a Director on the US Board of Concern Worldwide, a member of the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development, and chair of the Clinton Global Initiative Haiti Action Network. In addition, he is Chairman and Co-Founder of Frontline, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. In 2000, he established The Iris O’Brien Foundation to identify and assist projects in Ireland and internationally which aim to alleviate disadvantaged communities.” ([Clinton Foundation Website](#), Accessed 4/26/16)

O’Brien Is One Of The “Most Reviled” Figures In Ireland Over Revelations About His Business Affairs. “O’Brien is Ireland’s leading philanthropist – but now also one of the most reviled figures there. It is an extraordinary paradox that surrounds his business success – how he made his fortune and now how he is handling revelations about his banking and business affairs. For a man described by Clinton as changing the world more than anyone else for the betterment of the poor recent negative press provides a dizzying contrast.” (James O’Shea, “Clinton’s Close Friend Denis O’Brien Battles Massive Criticism In Ireland,” [Irish Central](#), 6/8/15)

O’Brien Is A Major Clinton Foundation Supporter And Bill Clinton’s “Friend”



([Clinton Foundation Website](#), Accessed 4/26/16)

Denis J. O’Brien And Digicel Cumulatively Donated \$10,000,001 To \$25,000,000 To The Clinton Foundation. (“Contributor And Grantor

Information,” [Clinton Foundation Website](#), Accessed 4/26/16)

Bill Clinton And O’Brien Developed “A Close Working Relationship” During Their Work Together In Haiti. “Mr Clinton and Mr. O’Brien formed a close working relationship in Haiti where the former acted as UN special envoy, and where Digicel has become the country’s largest foreign investor ever – pumping \$600 million (€443 million) into an economy devastated by the 2010 earthquake.”(Joe Humphreys, “Bill Clinton Visit Cements Close Working Relationship With Denis O’Brien,” [The Irish Times](#), 10/10/13)

• **Chelsea Clinton Thanked O’Brien For His “Tireless Leadership” In Haiti.** CHELSEA CLINTON: “And again, I want to thank Denis O’Brien for his tireless leadership, as well as also getting Ruth Messenger a chair – proving indeed that chivalry is alive and well. Without his sort of dogged commitment, I don’t think we would have had the success rate that he is so rightly proud of and that we are so rightly grateful to be part of. So, I want to welcome Adam to the stage to help lead the conversation, but I also would ask all of you to please give Denis who is far too humble a round of applause.” (Chelsea Clinton, [Remarks At The 2015 Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting](#), New York, NY, 9/27/15)

In 2011 O’Brien Flew Bill Clinton To Ireland On His Private Jet So That Clinton Could Speak At The Global Irish Economic Forum. “In 2011, Mr Clinton flew to Ireland on Mr O’Brien’s private jet to attend the Global Irish Economic Forum in Dublin Castle, which was hosted by Taoiseach Enda Kenny.” (Joe Humphreys, “Bill Clinton Visit Cements Close Working Relationship With Denis O’Brien,” [The Irish Times](#), 10/10/13)

On The Same Trip, O’Brien Picked Up The Restaurant Tab For His “Mate” Clinton And 23 Others. “He has an honorary doctorate from UCD and is a mate of former US President, Bill Clinton. Indeed, he flew him to the recent Dublin Castle beano in his jet, and later paid the tab for a late-nighter in the Unicorn restaurant with Clinton, the strangely ever-present Séamus Heaney and 22 others.” (“Denis O’Brien: A Complicated Career And Dubious Ethics,” [Village](#), 12/14/11)

President Clinton Named Denis O’Brien As A Clinton Global Citizen In 2012. “The Clinton Global Citizen Awards recognizes individuals from various sectors who demonstrate visionary leadership in addressing global challenges.

Carlos Slim Helú, founder of Fundación Carlos Slim; Luis A. Moreno, president of Inter-American Development Bank; Denis O'Brien, chairman and founder of Digicel Group; Pepe Julian Onziema, programme director and advocacy officer of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG); The Right Reverend Christopher Senyonjo, executive director of St. Paul's Reconciliation and Equality Centre; and Katie Stagliano, founder and chief executive gardener of Katie's Krops, will accept awards this year."(Press Release, "President Clinton to Honor Six Recipients at the Sixth Annual Clinton Global Citizen Awards," [The Clinton Foundation](#), 9/24/12)

In 2012, Clinton Rated O'Brien's Ideas To Make Cash Transactions Available For The Poor Through Cell Phones As The Number One Idea Changing The World. "Former president Bill Clinton wrote in a September 2012 Time Magazine cover story that Irish businessman Denis O'Brien's move to make cash transactions available for the poorest in the world via cell phones was the number one idea in changing the world. The Time cover story featuring Clinton holding a globe is entitled "5 Ideas that are changing the World" and O'Brien's idea was rated tops." (James O'Shea, "Clinton's Close Friend Denis O'Brien Battles Massive Criticism In Ireland," [Irish Central](#), 6/8/15)

O'Brien, Described As A Friend, Was The Main Facilitator And Benefactor For Clinton's Speech At A 2013 Gathering For The One Percent Difference Campaign. "Bill Clinton's third speaking engagement in Ireland in as many years was facilitated largely by his friend and fellow philanthropist Denis O'Brien. The billionaire chairman of the Digicel telecoms group helped to cover the cost of the visit along with a number of other private donors. Opening his speech, Mr. Clinton thanked Mr O'Brien personally 'for the invitation.'" (Joe Humphreys, "Bill Clinton Visit Cements Close Working Relationship With Denis O'Brien," [The Irish Times](#), 10/10/13)

O'Brien Is A "Fan" Of Hillary Clinton's And Hosted A 2012 Dinner For Her While She Was Secretary Of State

According To A 2014 Interview, O'Brien Is A "Fan" Of Hillary

Clinton's. O'DOWD: "Speaking of politicians, you are a big fan of Hillary Clinton. Do you think she is going to run for the White House in 2016?"

O'BRIEN: "I'd say she is going to see what the lay of the land is, like any clever politician, to see who's there on the Democratic side. I think a year out from the primaries last time, not a lot of people had heard of Obama and never saw him as a serious candidate, so obviously she is waiting to see who's there. And

yes, I am a fan.” (Niall O’Dowd, “Exclusive: Denis O’Brien On Tony O’Reilly, Hillary, Ireland, And Making A Difference,” [Irish Central](#), 9/27/14)

In 2012, O’Brien Hosted A Dinner For Hillary Clinton During Her Visit To Dublin. “There was lots of reminiscing the day before in Dublin too when about 12 of us old-time Hillary supporters sat with her in a Dublin restaurant at a dinner hosted by businessman Denis O’Brien. In the small private dinner setting just off Stephen’s Green in Dublin she made clear that the fire still burns. The affection for Ireland and the desire to serve again was very clear that night.” (Niall O’Dowd, “Hillary Clinton Book Recalls Role In Irish Peace Process,” *Irish Central*, 6/11/14)

O’Brien’s Company Received Funds Overseen By A Top Clinton Aide To Develop Mobile Services In Post-Earthquake Haiti

In 2011, O’Brien’s Company Digicel Was Awarded a \$2.5 Million Award From Funds Overseen By A Top Clinton Aide To Develop Mobile Services In Haiti. “Irish billionaire Denis O’Brien, who heads a mobile-phone network provider called Digicel, won a \$2.5 million award in 2011 from a program run by the State Department’s U.S. Agency for International Development to offer mobile money services in post-earthquake Haiti. The firm won subsequent awards. Funds for the awards were provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, while USAID administered the program, with a top Clinton aide directly overseeing earthquake aid.” (James V. Grimaldi, Rebecca Ballhaus, And Peter Nicholas, “Gifts To Hillary Clinton’s Family Charity Are Scrutinized In Wake Of Book,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 4/22/15)

O’BRIEN FACES CONTINUED INVESTIGATIONS INTO HIS QUID PRO QUO DEALINGS WITH IRISH POLITICIANS

An Irish Tribunal Determined That O’Brien Received Significant Aid From Michael Lowry, The Irish Communications Minister, In Obtaining A Valuable Telecom License

The Irish Moriarty Tribunal Concluded “Beyond Doubt” That O’Brien Had Received Substantial Help In Obtaining A Lucrative Mobile License From Then Communications Minister Michael Lowry. “The Moriarty tribunal’s second and final report has found that Michael Lowry assisted Denis O’Brien in his bid to secure a mobile phone contract for Esat Digifone. It concluded it is ‘beyond doubt’ that then minister for transport, energy and communications Mr Lowry gave ‘substantive information to Denis O’Brien, of significant value and assistance to him in securing the [mobile] licence.’ It said Mr Lowry and Mr

O'Brien had at least two meetings during the bid process at which the former minister 'imparted substantive information to Mr O'Brien of significant value and assistance to him in securing the licence.'" ("Moriarty Says Lowry Helped O'Brien Win Mobile Licence," [The Irish Times](#), 3/22/11)

O'Brien Transferred A Substantial Amount Of Money To Lowry And His Party Around The Time His Firm Was Seeking A Mobile License

O'Brien Gave Lowry's Political Party A €50,000 Donation The Year The Contract Was Granted. "The minister was then a member of the Fine Gael party, which was also offered a donation amounting to €50,000 (£43,400) from O'Brien in the year the contract was granted. The-then prime minister, John Bruton, later sent the money back." (Henry MacDonald, "Former Irish Minister Michael Lowry Accused Of Collusion Over Telecoms Bid," [The Guardian](#), 3/22/11)

- **The Moriarty Tribunal Found That The Payment Was Made "On Behalf Of Esat Digifone At The Instigation And Promotion Of Denis O'Brien."** "It said this payment was 'made in a manner which, having regard to its false and misleading documentation, the initial payment to an offshore Jersey account, and the eventual delays and misrepresented form of transmission to Fine Gael, was secretive, utterly lacking in transparency and designed to conceal the fact of such payment by or on behalf of the donors.' 'The tribunal has found that the payment, although not one ever intended for Mr Lowry personally, was nonetheless one that technically falls within its terms of reference and was a payment to Fine Gael, on behalf of Esat Digifone at the instigation and promotion of Denis O'Brien.'" ("Moriarty Says Lowry Helped O'Brien Win Mobile Licence," [The Irish Times](#), 3/22/11)

The Moriarty Tribunal Concluded That O'Brien Transferred €150,000 To Lowry In Several Secret Transactions. "Clandestine' money transactions took place between O'Brien and Lowry in return for the minister's support, according to Mr. Justice Moriarty, the tribunal's chairman. The report said that at one stage, while Lowry was communications minister, he received a sum amounting to €150,000 from O'Brien." (Henry MacDonald, "Former Irish Minister Michael Lowry Accused Of Collusion Over Telecoms Bid," [The Guardian](#), 3/22/11)

Over The Course Of Four Years, O'Brien Would Provide An Additional

£720,000 In Payments And Loan Support To Lowry. “Within four years of this first encounter, O'Brien had, the tribunal tells us, donated almost IR£1m in ‘clandestine circumstances’ to Lowry through loan support and payments. These came in three separate instalments; the first happened to occur less than seven weeks after the mobile phone licence had been granted. It included IR£147,000, Stg£300,000 and a ‘benefit equivalent to a payment’, in the form of loan support, of Stg£420,000.”(Elaine Byrne, “So Who's Afraid Of Denis O'Brien? Enda Kenny Is,” [Sunday Independent](#), 10/16/11)

O'Brien Tried To “Spoof” A Company Executive Into Releasing Funds For A Payment To Lowry That O'Brien Wanted To Make. “Some time afterwards Mr. O'Brien told Esat executive Barry Moloney that he'd tried to make a payment to Mr. Lowry but the payment had ‘got stuck’ with an intermediary. Mr. O'Brien later told his Esat colleagues that this was a spoof designed to get Mr. Moloney to release some funds Mr. O'Brien wanted released.” (Colm Keena, “Next Moriarty Report Focus On O'Brien, Lowry,” [The Irish Times](#), 1/8/07)

O'Brien's Company At The Time Was Seeking A Mobile Phone License, Which Was Later Sold Off To British Telecom. “At the time O'Brien's Esat Digifone conglomerate was trying to gain a mobile phone licence which had been put out to public tender in 1995. O'Brien later sold that licence to British Telecom, netting his business hundreds of millions of euros.” (Henry MacDonald, “Former Irish Minister Michael Lowry Accused Of Collusion Over Telecoms Bid,” [The Guardian](#), 3/22/11)

The Moriarty Tribunal Described O'Brien's Transactions Were “Demonstrably Referable To The Acts And Conduct Of Mr. Lowry.” “The final Moriarty tribunal report was published in March 2011. It found Mr Lowry ‘secured the winning’ of the State's second mobile phone licence competition for Mr O'Brien's consortium, Esat Digifone. It also found Mr O'Brien made payments to, and supported a loan to, Mr Lowry and that the transactions were ‘demonstrably referable to the acts and conduct of Mr Lowry.’ The two men have said the tribunal was wrong in its findings.” (Colm Keena, “Cab Seeks To Question Denis O'Brien On Tribunal Findings,” [The Irish Times](#), 1/9/16)

The Irish Criminal Assets Bureau Continues To Investigate O'Brien After Gathering “Further Material” Regarding His Telecom Bid

The Irish Criminal Assets Bureau Will Be Interviewing O'Brien Over The Moriarty Tribunal's Findings After Gathering “Further Material” About The Matter. “The Criminal Assets Bureau will look to interview businessman

Denis O'Brien about the findings of the Moriarty tribunal report after it has gathered further material, according to a source with knowledge of the matter. While a number of relevant witnesses have already been interviewed, an interview with Mr O'Brien has yet to take place but will be sought, according to the source." (Colm Keena, "Cab Seeks To Question Denis O'Brien On Tribunal Findings," [The Irish Times](#), 1/9/16)

- **NOTE: The Criminal Assets Bureau Is "The Agency That Identifies Money Gained Through Serious Crime."** "Denis O'Brien, Ireland's largest media owner, is being investigated by the country's Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB), the agency that identifies money gained through serious crime." (Roy Greenslade, "Denis O'Brien Under Investigation By Ireland's Criminal Assets Bureau," [The Guardian](#), 1/11/16)

O'BRIEN'S PURCHASE OF A DEBT-RIDDLED COMPANY COST IRISH TAXPAYERS €110 MILLION

In 2012, O'Brien Purchased A Company Whose Debt, Caused By "His Endless Buying And Selling Of Property" Was Partially Offset By Irish State Funds. "In 2012 O'Brien acquired for €45.4 million, Siteserv, a construction company that was buying up numerous other property companies during Ireland's short lived economic boom. At the time of purchase, O'Brien owed IBRC, the state owned-bank, hundreds of millions of euros. Siteserv, like many companies who went bankrupt during this financial apocalypse in Ireland, pace 2008, were previously allowed to run riot on a never ending spending spree, supported by Anglo Irish Bank. By purchasing Siteserv, another company riddled with Anglo Irish Bank-fuelled debt, O'Brien was effectively buying from the state an asset riddled with debt--much of which he helped create through his endless buying and selling of property." (J.P. O'Malley, "Why Is The Irish Government Scared of Billionaire Denis O'Brien?," [The Daily Beast](#), 6/12/15)

"The Sale Of The Company To O'Brien Therefore Cost The Irish Taxpayer €110 Million." "The sale of Siteserv to O'Brien also had another favorable condition: IBRC agreed to write off over €100million of Siteserv's debt. And shareholders received €5million from the sale. The sale of the company to O'Brien therefore cost the Irish taxpayer €110 million." (J.P. O'Malley, "Why Is The Irish Government Scared of Billionaire Denis O'Brien?," [The Daily Beast](#),

6/12/15)

O'BRIEN ATTEMPTS TO SILENCE POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS WHO CRITICIZE HIM

“O'Brien Has Previously Injuncted Or Initiated Defamation Proceedings 24 Times Against 42 Media Outlets.” (J.P. O'Malley, “Why Is The Irish

Government Scared of Billionaire Denis O'Brien?,” [The Daily Beast](#), 6/12/15)

In 2016, O'Brien Sued The Irish Revenue Commissioners And Claimed They Breached His Privacy By Providing Details Of His Tax Liability To The Media.

“Businessman Denis O'Brien is suing the Revenue Commissioners claiming they breached his privacy by providing details of his tax affairs to the media. He claims the alleged disclosure arose from a document Revenue provided to certain news organisations during a case arising out of his tax liability for 1999/2000 relating to the sale of his shares in Esat Telecom to BT Hawthorn Ltd. Revenue deny his claims and say almost all the information came from a public High Court hearing.” (“Denis O'brien Sues Revenue For Breach Of Privacy,” [The Irish Times](#), 3/16/16)

In 2015, O'Brien Succeeded In Getting An Injunction Against Media Outlets Reporting On A Speech In The Irish Parliament That Criticized His Banking Arrangements.

“As I wrote in May this year, most of Ireland's media were silenced after O'Brien obtained a Dublin high court injunction against the country's main broadcaster, RTÉ, in order to prevent it reporting a parliamentary speech. That injunction was eventually 'clarified,' which allowed the speech to be reported.” (Roy Greenside, “Why Does Irish Media Mogul Denis O'Brien Launch So Many Legal Actions?,” [The Guardian](#), 10/29/15)

O'Brien Sued The Parliamentary Committee That Cleared The MP Who Criticized Him For His Banking Arrangements.

“The speech that upset O'Brien was made by Catherine Murphy TD, who raised questions over his banking arrangements. When she was cleared of having abused her parliamentary privilege by a Dáil committee, O'Brien then started legal action against the committee.” (Roy Greenside, “Why Does Irish Media Mogul Denis O'Brien Launch So Many Legal Actions?,” [The Guardian](#), 10/29/15)

- ***The Irish Times: O'Brien's “Case Is Ill-Judged And Dangerous, A Regrettable Move By A Wealthy Serial Litigator.”*** “That is also the clear purpose of the writers of the Constitution. Any other interpretation, however tempting to judges instinctively distrustful of the imperfection of political

decision-making, will set the judiciary on a course of confrontation with parliament that it will rue, irrespective of the merits of Mr O'Brien's cause. His case is ill-judged and dangerous, a regrettable move by a wealthy serial litigator. He should withdraw it." (Editorial, "In Defence Of Privilege," [The Irish Times](#), 8/5/15)

- **O'Brien's Injunction Was Branded As A "Constitutional Crisis."** "But numerous journalists and politicians branded this particular injunction as a constitutional crisis. The Irish Constitution allows for all statements that are made in its national parliament to be protected by parliamentary privilege. By gagging his critics, O'Brien was potentially creating a precedent in Ireland where a private individual was dictating what could and could not be reported from the national parliament to the press." (J.P. O'Malley, "Why Is The Irish Government Scared of Billionaire Denis O'Brien?," [The Daily Beast](#), 6/12/15)
"In August, He Threatened To Sue A Satirical Website, Waterford Whispers, For Running A Spoof Item About O'Brien. The Post Was Duly Taken Down." (Roy Greenside, "Why Does Irish Media Mogul Denis O'Brien Launch So Many Legal Actions?," [The Guardian](#), 10/29/15)
In 2013, O'Brien Won A Defamation Claim Against A Paper That Covered His Earthquake Relief Efforts. "In February 2013, he won €150,000 damages in a successful defamation claim against the Irish Daily Mail over an article published in 2010 about O'Brien's Haiti earthquake relief efforts. The Mail's solicitor said after the verdict that it was a sad day for freedom of expression in Ireland." (Roy Greenside, "Why Does Irish Media Mogul Denis O'Brien Launch So Many Legal Actions?," [The Guardian](#), 10/29/15)
In 2012, Transparency International Voiced Concerns About O'Brien's Legal Actions Against Journalists. "In November 2012, an organisation called Transparency International Ireland voiced concerns to the United Nations over the number of O'Brien's legal actions. It cited figures compiled by the National Union of Journalists that listed actions, or threats of actions, against 17 journalists and media groups by O'Brien since 1998. Among the most high profile were those against some of Ireland's best-known commentators, such as Vincent Browne, Sam Smyth and Elaine Byrne. TI Ireland's chief executive John Devitt said at the time: 'The use of litigation and legal threats denies journalists and editors the human right to freely report and comment on matters of public importance.' 'Journalists also have a duty to

report or comment on issues in the public interest - even if they have a negative impact on Mr O'Brien's reputation.” (Roy Greenside, “Why Does Irish Media Mogul Denis O'Brien Launch So Many Legal Actions?,” [The Guardian](#), 10/29/15)



www.DonaldJTrump.com

725 5th Avenue New York, NY 10022

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