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16/10/2006

Mr Tom Felle  
Ireland on Sunday  
3rd Floor, Embassy House,  
Herbert Park Lane, Ballsbridge,  
Dublin 4  
Co. Dublin  
Ireland

Dear Mr Felle,

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act concerning correspondence in relation to the granting of licences to 4 companies to carry out exploration work in the Slyne, Erris and Donegal basins. This request was received in the FOI Unit on the 28/08/2006.

I have made a final decision to part-grant your request. If you have any queries regarding this correspondence you can contact me by telephone at the number below. A schedule of the records covered by your request is attached.

The actual computation for search and retrieval purposes is € 42.26 representing two hours at €20.95 per hour. Copying charges of € 0.36 are also applicable with breakdown as follows:

	Rate	Quantity	Line Total
Photocopy	€ 0.04 per page	9	€ 0.36
Floppy Disk	€ 0.51 per unit	0	€ 0.00
CD ROM	€ 10.16 per unit	0	€ 0.00
Radiograph	€ 6.35 per unit	0	€ 0.00
		Copying Total	€ 0.36

A balance payment of € 42.26 for search and retrieval and copying is now due.

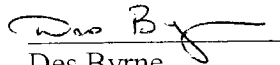
Payment should be made by way of Bank Draft, Money Order, Postal Order or Cheque made payable to 'Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources'. The payment should be forwarded to the undersigned at the earliest opportunity.

The photocopied records will be sent to you within one week of the date that the above payment is received by this Department. Should you wish to pay the fee, you must do so within 8 weeks of the date of the date of this letter. The Department is obliged to hold the records ready for only 8 weeks for possible access by you.

You may appeal this decision by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit at the above address. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this letter; however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

If I can be of any additional help to you please, do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely,



Des Byrne  
Petroleum Affairs Division



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11 September 2006

Mr Tom Felle  
Ireland on Sunday  
3rd Floor, Embassy House,  
Herbert Park Lane,  
Ballsbridge,  
Dublin 4  
Co.Dublin  
Ireland

FOI/0067/2006

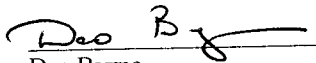
Dear Mr Felle,

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Act for records held by this Department.

This Department has decided to extend the time limit for the decision on your request by 3 weeks. The reason for this extension is that a requirement for Third Party Consultation has arisen under Section 29 of the Acts, a copy of which is enclosed.

This extension means that you can now expect to receive your decision by the 16/10/2006.

Yours sincerely

  
Des Byrne  
Petroleum Affairs Division

28<sup>th</sup> August, 2006

Mr Tom Felle,  
Ireland on Sunday,  
3rd Floor,  
Embassy House,  
Herbert Park Lane,  
Ballsbridge,  
Dublin 4.

FOI/0067/2006

Dear Mr Felle,

I refer to the Freedom of Information request received in this office on 28/08/2006 along with the associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Mr Des Byrne, Petroleum Affairs Division, Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Beggars Bush, Haddington Rd., Dublin 4. He can be contacted at 01 6782693.


A final decision on your request will normally be sent to you within 4 weeks of receipt of your request. This means that you can expect to receive your decision by the 25/09/2006.

If you have not heard from us when the time allocated has expired, you are automatically entitled to appeal to the Department for a review of the matter. This review proceeds on the legal basis that the initial request is considered to be refused once the specified time for responding to it has expired.

You should also be aware that you are entitled to a review of the decision if your request is refused, or if you are for any reason dissatisfied with the outcome of your request. The review is a full and new examination of the matter carried out by a more senior member of staff of this Department. In the event that you need to make an appeal, you can do so by writing to FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2,. Please note that there is a charge for all appeals of FOI requests. This charge is currently €75.00. A reduced fee of €25.00 applies if you are the holder of a Medical Card.

Please note that the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources has a policy of posting a summary of your request, your name and address and the subsequent reply on the Department's website for reference purposes.

Yours sincerely,

  
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Mary Rabbitte  
FOI Unit

# Ireland on Sunday

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Embassy House, Herbert Park Lane, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4  
Tel: +353 1 6375800 Fax: +353 1 6375880 (News)

Wednesday, August 22~~2~~3

Freedom of Information Officer  
Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

To whom it concerns

I wish to make an application under the Freedom of Information Act (1997) as amended (2003).

I request:

1. Copies of any letters of canvas/support received by the Department from serving or former members of the Oireachtas in relation to the Minister's recent announcement that he was awarding licences to four companies to carry out exploration work off the Slyne, Erris and Donegal basins, should they exist
2. Copies of letters of canvas/support received by the Department from any foreign embassy or representative of any foreign government in relation to the granting of the licences, should they exist
3. A copy of the final recommendations made by department officials to the Minister in relation to the granting of the licences

Please find enclosed a cheque for €15, representing the statutory fee for this request.

If you have any queries, or need clarification on any point, I can be contacted on 087 251 3813.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Felle', written over a horizontal line.

Tom Felle