

**REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO RECORDS UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, 1997**

Please address this request to relevant FOI Contact

Please use **BLOCK** letters

Details of Applicant

Surname: Coveney TD

First Name: Simon

Postal Address: Aine Gael, Leinster House,
Lildane Street, Dublin 2.
(pp Paul O'Brien)

**FOI UNIT
CAVAN**

12 MAY 2009

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS,
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
ROINN CUMARSAIDE, FUINNIMH
AGUS ACMHAINNI NADURTHA

Telephone Number(s)

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Home : _____

Date FOI request Received: _____

Business: 6183783

Identity Verified: _____

Mobile: (pp 6184404)

Consent Confirmed: _____

Personal Information

My preferred form of access is: *(please tick as appropriate)*

to receive copies of the record by post
other - please specify _____

Details of Request

In accordance with **Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Act**, I request access to records which are: *(please tick as appropriate)*

Personal
Non-personal

*In the space provided below, please describe the records as fully as you can. If you are requesting **Personal Information**, please state precisely, in whose name those*

records are held. You will not normally be given access to personal information of another person unless you have obtained the written consent of that person.

I request the following records:

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government and Renault – Nissan on electric cars.

Minutes of meetings, agendas, briefing documents and memos prepared for the inter-departmental agency Taskforce group on electric cars chaired by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

Please sign here: Simon Caveney TD Date: 4/05/09

12/05/2009

Simon Coveney
Leinster House,
Kildare St.,
Dublin,
Ireland

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2009/16

Dear Mr Coveney,

I refer to your FOI request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, received in this office on 12/05/2009 requesting minutes of meetings, agendas, briefing documents and memos prepared for the inter-departmental agency Taskforce group on electric cars chaired by DCENR. The application was received along with the associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Ms Geraldine Luddy, Renewable & Sustainable Energy Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2. Geraldine can be contacted on 01 6783215

You can expect to receive your decision by the 09/06/2009.

If you have not received a decision by that time, 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. A request for a review should be addressed to the undersigned at the address shown.

Please note the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources has a policy of posting a summary of non-personal requests and decisions on the Departments website for reference purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Cosgrove
FOI Unit
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Elm House,
Earlsvale Rd
Cavan

Phone: 01 6782902



An Roinn Cumarsáide,
Fuinneamh agus Acmhainní nádúrtha
Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Department of Communications,
Energy and Natural Resources,
Dublin 2.

Our Ref: FOI/2009/16

8th June 2009

Mr Simon Coveney TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Dear Mr Coveney

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 - 2003 for a copy of The Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government and Renault-Nissan on electric cars, in addition to copies of various documents relating to the Inter-departmental Agency Taskforce on Electric Vehicles which is chaired by this Department.

I have made a final decision to refuse your request of 11 May 2009. This decision is made under Section 20(1), Section 26(1)(a) and (b) and Section 27(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the FOI Acts on the basis that the records you request form part of the deliberative process in relation to the report being prepared by the Taskforce on the options and timeframe for creating the necessary infrastructure for the national roll-out of electric vehicles in Ireland. The information you requested has been given to the Department in confidence and is deemed to be commercially sensitive. The purpose of this letter is to clarify that decision. This clarification has the following parts:

1. a schedule of the records covered by your request;
2. an explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied, and
3. a statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these three parts in turn.

1. Schedule of records

A schedule of the relevant records is attached to this letter. It shows the documents that this Department considers relevant to your request. It describes the documents and refers to the section of the FOI Act which applies to prevent release.

The schedule also provides brief reasons for the decision which are meant to supplement the fuller and more detailed explanation given under heading 2 below.

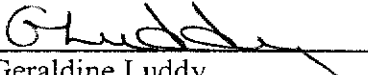
2. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

The sections of the Act which can apply to deny access to documents are known as its exemption provisions. The inter-departmental Taskforce is at the deliberative stage in relation to how best to progress the framework for deployment of electric vehicles in Ireland. In view of this it is considered that in accordance with Section 20(1) of the FOI Act as all of the documentation relates to the deliberative process it should not be released as it contains opinions, advice and recommendations on the Electric Vehicle deployment issue. In addition to this all of the information relating to the Taskforce was given to the Department in confidence and on the basis that it would not be released to third parties and contains commercially sensitive information and therefore Sections 26(1)(a) and (b) and Section 27(1)(a), (b) and (c) also apply.

3. Rights of appeal

The Freedom of Information Act provides the right to appeal a decision taken under the Act within 4 weeks of the initial decision. Should you wish to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to Mr Frank O'Brien, Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd, Cavan. Please note that there is a charge for all appeals of FOI requests which is currently €75 or €25 for medical card holders. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely


Geraldine Luddy
Sustainable and Renewable Energy Division

Schedule of Records

FOI/2009/16 Simon Coveney

Record Number	Brief Description and Date of Record	File Ref.	No of Pages	Relevant Facts	Findings/ conclusions	Grant/refuse e/ part-grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Record edited/ Identify deletions
1	Copy of the Memorandum of Understanding dated 3 April 2009	EV 21/1	7	Copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between Minister and Renault-Nissan.	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
2	Minutes of 1 st meeting of EV Group held 20/10/08	EV 21/1	2	Deliberations of 1 st meeting of Taskforce	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
3	Electric Vehicles Briefing Note	EV 21/1	19	Briefing Note prepared by D/Transport for 1 st meeting of Taskforce	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b)	

Record Number	Brief Description and Date of Record	File Ref.	No of Pages	Relevant Facts	Findings/ conclusions	Grant/refuse e/ part-grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Record edited/ Identify deletions
					process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.		Section 27(1)(c)	
4	Copy of Presentation made at 1 st meeting of Taskforce on 20/10/08	EV 21/1	20	Copy of presentation made by ESB	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
5	Copy of Presentation made at 1 st meeting of Taskforce on 20/10/08	EV 21/1	5	Copy of presentation made by ESB	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
6	List of issues to be analysed in Taskforce Report	EV 21/1	1	List prepared by ESB	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	

Record Number	Brief Description and Date of Record	File Ref.	No of Pages	Relevant Facts	Findings/conclusions	Grant/refuse/ part-grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Record edited/ Identify deletions
7	Minutes of 2nd meeting of EV Group held 6/11/08	EV 21/1	2	Deliberations of 2nd meeting of Taskforce	the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles. Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
8	Minutes of 3rd meeting of EV Group held 5/12/08	EV 21/1	2	Deliberations of 3rd meeting of Taskforce	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
9	Minutes of meeting of Enterprise opportunities subgroup on 26/1/09	EV 21/1	2	Minutes prepared by D/ET&E	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	

Record Number	Brief Description and Date of Record	File Ref.	No of Pages	Relevant Facts	Findings/conclusions	Grant/refuse e/part-grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Record edited/ Identify deletions
10	Agenda for Enterprise opportunities subgroup meeting on 6/3/09	EV 21/1	1	Copy of meeting agenda	documental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles. Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
11	Draft report prepared by Enterprise opportunities subgroup	EV 21/1	40	Copy of a draft report of the deliberations of the Enterprise opportunities subgroup of main Taskforce	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
12	Minutes of meeting of Enterprise opportunities subgroup on 8/4/09	EV 21/1	2	Minutes prepared by D/ET&E	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	

Record Number	Brief Description and Date of Record	File Ref.	No of Pages	Relevant Facts	Findings/conclusions	Grant/refuse e/part-grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Record edited/ Identify deletions
13	Minutes of meeting of Transport subgroup held 26/2/09	EV 21/1	2	Minutes prepared by D/Transport	Taskforce on Electric Vehicles. Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
14	Minutes of meeting of Transport subgroup held 20/3/09	EV 21/1	2	Minutes prepared by D/Transport	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on Electric Vehicles.	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	
15	Paper presented at Transport subgroup meeting held 20/3/09	EV 21/1	20	Strategy document for development of EV's prepared by SEI	Document is considered confidential and forms part of the deliberative process relating to the Inter-departmental Taskforce on	Refuse	Section 20(1) Section 26(1)(a) Section 26(1)(b) Section 27(1)(a) Section 27(1)(b) Section 27(1)(c)	

Record Number	Brief Description and Date of Record	File Ref.	No of Pages	Relevant Facts	Findings/ conclusions	Grant/refuse/ part-grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Record edited/ Identify deletions
					Electric Vehicles.			