



An Roinn Cumarsáide,
Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádurtha
Baile Átha Cliath 2.

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

18 February 2009

Mr Luke Byrne
The Irish Mail on Sunday
Embassy House
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2009/3

Dear Mr Byrne

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, concerning records regarding expenses for Junior Minister(s) for each year from November 2004 to 2008.

I have made a final decision to your request and I attach all relevant information with this letter. 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 also attached.

I wish to advise you that, if for any reason you are not satisfied with the outcome of your request, you are entitled to seek a review by appealing the decision. To appeal, you need to write to the FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd, Cavan, Co Cavan. You must make your appeal within 4 weeks of the date of this letter, but the making of a late appeal may be permitted in certain circumstances. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Please note that an application fee for an appeal is currently €75.00 and a reduced fee of €25.00 applies if you are covered by a Medical Card.

If claiming a reduced application fee, the request must also be accompanied by

- The Medical Card registration number
- The name of the issuing Health Board
- Your consent to the verification of these details with that Health Board.

Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money postal order, or personal cheque made payable to "Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources".

On receipt of the fee, you will be advised of when you can expect a decision on your appeal, and the contact details of the person handling the appeal.

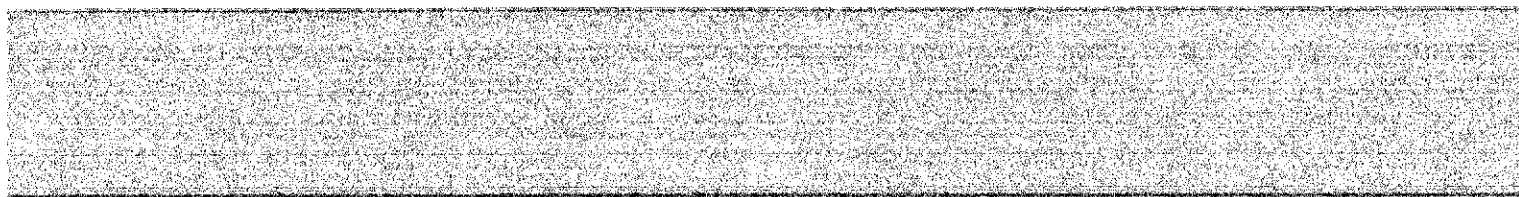
Yours sincerely

Ann Kissane

Ann Kissane

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

Phone: 016782173



Record 1

Expenses for Minister of State Nov 2004 to Dec 2007

(Includes Travel & Subsistence, Flights, Entertainment, Accommodation & Miscellaneous)

Year	Total
2004	11,473
2005	65,699
2006	60,858
2007	59,281

Expenses for Minister of State Tony Killen in 2008

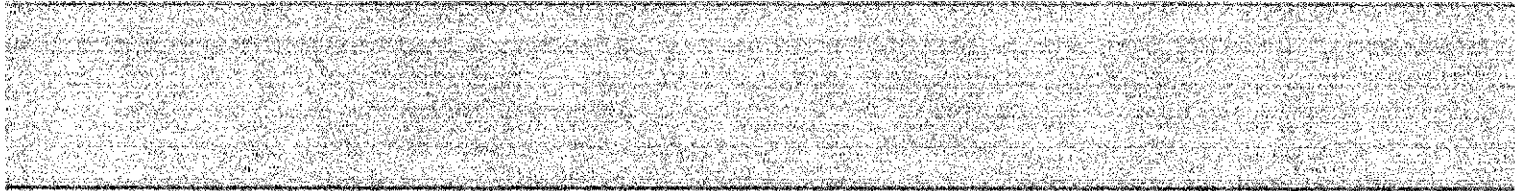
Year	Mileage	Flights	Expenses	Subsistence	Hotel Costs	Official Entertainment	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
2008	2979.94	8753.82	78.93	985.83	1094.09	559.77	4887.22	19,339.60

Expenses for Minister of State Sean Power in 2008

Year	Mileage	Flights	Expenses	Subsistence	Hotel Costs	Official Entertainment	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
2008	17,722.47	1277.60	0	811.66	1080.00	1759.25	139.00	22,789.98

Private Office Staff of Minister of State Power

Title	Salary as at 1/ 9/ 08
Special Adviser	€89,819
Personal Secretary	€48,388
Civilian Driver	€34,826
Civilian Driver	€34,826





29th January 2009

Mr Luke Byrne
The Irish Mail on Sunday
Embassy House
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

FOI Request Reference: RequestID: 401


Dear Mr Byrne,

I refer to your FOI request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, received in this office on 16th January 2009 requesting details of the total expenses claimed by Junior Ministers appointed to our department from 1998 to 2008.

I have forwarded your request to the Human Resources Division, 29 – 31 Adelaide Rd., Dublin 2 for their attention. As soon as I have confirmation of the name of the decision-maker who will be dealing with your request I will let you know. You can expect to receive your decision from this Department by the 13th February 2009.

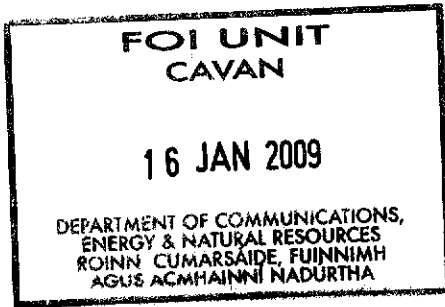
If you have not received a decision from our Department by 13th February 2009, you are automatically entitled to appeal to the Department for a review of the matter. This review proceeds on the legal basis that the initial request is considered to be refused once the specified time for responding to it has expired. A request for a review should be addressed to the undersigned at the address shown.

Yours sincerely,


Carmel Cosgrove

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

Phone: 01 6782902



Luke Byrne,
The Irish Mail on Sunday,
Embassy House,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.

14/01/2009

Freedom of Information Unit.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am making this request for records which I believe are held by your department under the Freedom of Information Act.

I request details of the total expenses claimed for each year since 1998 claimed by the junior minister(s) appointed to your department.

I also request details of the total expenses for the year of 2008, claimed by the junior minister(s) appointed to your department.

Could you please provide this 2008 total for expenses broken down by named junior minister as following: 1) Travel a) mileage claimed b) flights c) other travel 2) Subsistence 3) Entertainment 4) Accommodation 5) Miscellaneous (gifts etc), along with any other headings deemed by you to be appropriate in explaining the total figure.

Could you also please provide the salary of the citizen or garda driver employed by the junior minister(s) relevant to the department in 2008, as well as the salary of any other personal staff employed by the junior minister(s) but on the department's payroll [Eg. The junior minister's personal secretary, personal stylist, etc....] in 2008.

You can send me the information by e-mail: byrneluke@gmail.com, or by hard copy, whichever is most desirable for your department.

If you have any further questions please contact me on 086-165-9603. I would request that any formal correspondence prior to response of the request be in email format to: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie Please find enclosed the €15 application fee. I note that I wish for this request to be dealt with without any additional cost. Please contact me regarding any details of this request which may cause an additional cost before formal correspondence of notification of these costs (if any), and the proper amendments to the request will be made.

Regards,



Luke Byrne