

**From:** Albert Jordan  
**Sent:** 23 October 2008 11:24  
**To:** 'Stephanie.O'Donnell@finance.gov.ie'  
**Cc:** 'tim.duggan@finance.gov.ie'; 'tadhg.O'Leaey@finance.gov.ie'; Peter O'Neill; Aidan Dunning; Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance; Colette T. Gallagher; 'michael.perkins@finance.gov.ie'  
**Subject:** Request for Sanction

Dear Ms O'Donnell,

Please find attached a copy of our letter requesting sanction to proceed with the eInclusion Grant scheme.

A signed hard copy has also issued to you this morning but in view of the time factors I am eMailing the letter as well as the two documents referred to.

We would really appreciate it if it were possible for you to consider this issue promptly.

Please contact me if there are aspects you wish to discuss.

Sincerely

Albert Jordan

Dr. Albert Jordan  
Information Society - eInclusion Section  
Ph 00 353 1 678 2528  
Albert.Jordan@dcenr.gov.ie

Ms. Stephanie O'Donnell  
Department of Finance

Dear Ms. O'Donnell,

I wish to seek sanction for this Department to run the next eInclusion Grant scheme.

This scheme – known as the Benefit from IT scheme (or “BenefIT”) is a successor of eInclusion grant schemes (e.g. the Access Skills & Content - ASC) successfully run by the Department of the Taoiseach since 2005. As you may be aware, responsibility for the Knowledge Society (under which eInclusion falls) transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach to this Department this year.

A provision for eInclusion was made in the Department of the Taoiseach Vote for 2008 amounting to €3m. Such funds only transferred to this Department in the week before the budget when the necessary FREV was laid before the Oireachtas. Accordingly we have not been in a position to act until now. €2.934million remains in this subhead for 2008.

We are now eager to launch the eInclusion grant scheme as no scheme has been run this year and there was an expectation that such a scheme would be run. We are seeking sanction for expenditure of approximately €1m this year from the €2.934 unspent 2008 allocation; and further sanction for €1m to end 2009 – which has been allocated in our 2009 Vote for that purpose. A brief outline of the scheme, which builds on previous schemes and now also incorporates a value for money dimension, is attached for your information as a copy of a draft press release which provides further background.

I understand that there would have been a letter of sanction to D/Taoiseach for the earlier schemes but as of yet it has not been possible to locate a copy.

**If we are to launch a scheme and facilitate expenditure under it this year we will need to do so in the next few days. An urgent processing of the request for sanction would facilitate us in this regard.**

I would greatly appreciate it if you were able to facilitate a prompt sanction. Should you have any questions please contact me.

---

Dr. Albert Jordan  
eInclusion Section – Knowledge Society Division  
Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources  
678 2528  
Albert.Jordan@dcentr.gov.ie

cc Tim Duggan and Tadhg O'Leary CMOD  
Aidan Dunning, Peter O'Neill and Brian T. Carroll D/CENR

**Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources**  
**Knowledge Society Division – eInclusion Section**

**Bene/IT**

**Scheme**

**(Benefit from Information Technology)**

**Outline of the new eInclusion Scheme**

**October 2008**

**Purpose of the Bene/IT Scheme**

This scheme builds on previous eInclusion initiatives such as the ASC scheme. A key objective of this initiative is to provide financial support to voluntary, not-for-profit organisations/service providers who develop specific initiatives which will encourage and support the participation of late adopters<sup>1</sup> of technology.

Through the **Bene/IT** Scheme Minister Sean Power and the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources are offering the opportunity of financial assistance to eligible groups who propose initiatives which will assist those in the target groups – i.e. those who are at greatest risk of being left behind in the Knowledge (or Information) Society so as to facilitate them to better avail of the benefits and advantages which participation in the knowledge society makes possible for them. The target groups (in no particular order) are:-

- Older people
- Unemployed people
- Disadvantaged people
- People with disabilities
- Others who don't yet but would like to use such technologies

Applications must be submitted using the Departmental application form by the closing date. Those received by that date will be evaluated against the criteria for the scheme which is outlined in brief below.

**Qualifying Projects**

Projects may be submitted by eligible groups/organisations – i.e. community, voluntary or not for profit entities. All submitted applications will be evaluated on their merits. All project proposals submitted **must** include measures/proposals to encourage/facilitate people who have not previously used/benefited from technologies such as computers or the internet to do so. Projects **may in addition** to that entail measures aimed at assisting people who have used such technologies before to further

<sup>1</sup> Those who as yet are not users of technologies such as computers, the internet, mobile phones and other such technologies.

improve their skills to avail of more benefits. In evaluating projects scores will be awarded under each of the relevant headings – details below. These scores will *inter alia* take account of:-

- The number of people from the target group(s) whom the proposal will benefit – points will be awarded based on the number of new users the project will facilitate and also if relevant the number of people who will benefit from improving their skills or will benefit in on other ways
- Value for money
- The quality of the proposals
- The quality of the impact for beneficiaries
- Innovative aspects of a proposal which have the potential to be replicated elsewhere
- The ability/capacity of the applicant to deliver

Proposals/initiatives should be geared to achieve one or more of the specific objectives of the **Bene/IT** Scheme cited below.

**The key Objective of the Bene/IT Scheme** is to encourage and facilitate more people to benefit from the knowledge society i.e. to encourage and facilitate new technology users – a secondary objective is to assist people who are already participants or technology users to gain further benefits – e.g. by learning new skills.

Projects would be expected to focus on delivering the maximum benefit for the highest possible number of beneficiaries. Benefits should entail skills development to facilitate the participation of target individuals in the knowledge society and/or on persuading individuals of the benefits of participating. The goals are to increase awareness and relevance of ICTs and to facilitate more people in actually participating. Proposals for content development may be considered in such circumstances but the focus should be on encouraging and facilitating new participation with content being a means to that end.

**Application Process**

- Applicants must fully complete the **Bene/IT** Application form, providing all necessary information and associated documentation by the closing date.
- All applications will be assessed and evaluated by the eInclusion Section of the Knowledge Society Division at the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources.

**Outline of Criteria for assessing projects:**

**Applications will be assessed and scored on the following criteria:**

- The application must be from an eligible group – voluntary, community or not profit organisation
- The application must contain all of the requisite information necessary to evaluate it, in particular, and as a minimum requirement this **MUST** include:-
  - The applicant must clearly state quantified and tangible aims and objectives,

- Must clearly and unambiguously state the number of intended beneficiaries
- Provide sufficient information in each section of the form to enable the evaluators to gain a clear understanding of what will be delivered and how it will be delivered as well as all necessary supporting information including on the costs with adequate detail on how the stated costs have been arrived at.

There are four key elements on which projects will be scored. These are:

1. Beneficial Impact
2. Strength of Case and Quality of Application
3. Value for Money
4. Innovation with wider applicability.

Each of these is explained in further detail below.

**Beneficial Impact**

This will assess the expected benefits which would result if the project were successfully implemented. It takes account of the number of expected direct beneficiaries from the target groups in both categories i.e.

1. new users of technology (those who have not used computers or who have not used the internet before) and
2. people who have previously used technology but will improve their skills as a result of your project.

having regard to the nature of the envisaged benefits.

**Strength of Case and Quality of Application**

Under this category a projects will be assessed inter alia on the following:-

- **Sustainability** of your project/initiative beyond the initial period in the absence of state funds.
- **The quality of the case made.** The extent to which the objectives are made clear, are quantifiable, and the extent to which they are measurable.
- The extent to which the applicant **demonstrates the capacity** which exists in your organisation to deliver on the stated objectives
- Points will also be allocated based on your proposals to assess/measure your projects outcomes/success.

**Value for Money**

This will be assessed having regard to the total amount of funding sought from the **Bene/IT Scheme** in relation to the actual/expected number of beneficiaries.

Additional points will be available where other funding or quantifiable inputs are/will be in place for the proposed initiative. The value of any voluntary effort that will be in place to support your proposed initiative – if demonstrated by you in the application - can also be taken account of in this context.

**Innovation with wider applicability**

Additional points may be awarded by the evaluators where in their opinion the applicant has demonstrated that an initiative/project incorporates an innovative dimension which in their opinion are likely to have the capacity to add new value or insights or which would be likely to have beneficial impact if replicated elsewhere.

## Power announces opportunities for more people to **BenefIT** from computer & internet learning.

Many people feel left behind these days when it comes to computers, the internet and (for some) even mobile phones. For example, we know that only about one in ten older people in Ireland are comfortable about using the internet – but many of the others would like to.

That's why Knowledge Society Minister – Sean Power – is launching a new scheme to help provide opportunities for people who want to see what these technologies can do for them. This scheme is primarily about making people who don't currently use these technologies aware of how they can benefit from them. It's also about assisting them to participate in our knowledge society through training.

“People shouldn't be left behind – and they don't have to be. We hear a lot these days about life-long learning. For me that should be about learning things that will be useful to you – like how to use emails – or how to find information on the internet – or to book tickets on-line or even learning about digital photography.

That's why I'm delighted to be able to offer funding opportunities so people can learn the skills that will make life better for them in the increasingly technology oriented world in which we live.

The new scheme is known as **BenefIT** (Benefit from Information Technology). It builds on previous schemes to help promote eInclusion.

It does this by providing opportunities for community, voluntary or not for profit organisations or groups to obtain funding for specific initiatives so that they can better appreciate the potential and so that assistance can be provided for people who want to learn these type of skills.

Most of us know people who are reluctant to try to use a computer, or even a mobile phone – and for whom the internet remains a mystery. This scheme is designed to help them.”

How does it work? A community, voluntary or not for profit organisation puts together a proposal – it might be something like providing training in basic internet use, e-mail and digital photography for senior citizens. They apply to Minister Power's Department by 3:00 pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008 Guidelines on making applications as well as application forms are available from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources – details below. Applications will be assessed against the criteria for the scheme. Funding will be awarded based on the merits of the applications within available resources.

“I am delighted to be able to make this opportunity available. As Knowledge Society Minister one of my main goals is for more people to get the know-how to enable them to use technologies like computers and the internet to improve

their quality of life – it really is a lot easier than many people think. Through this scheme they can do just that.”

Further information about the **BeneFIT** Scheme as well as an application form can be obtained at on the Departments website at [www.dcenr.gov.ie/](http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/)

or

by eMail at [asc@dcenr.gov.ie](mailto:asc@dcenr.gov.ie)

or

by phone at (01) 678 2518

**ENDS**

### **Background Note**

Responsibility for eInclusion transferred this year from the Department of the Taoiseach to the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources – under new Knowledge Society Minister Sean Power.

The last eInclusion scheme was run in 2007 – then known as the ASC (Access Skills & Content) Scheme. It benefited thousands of people through grant aiding over 90 projects.

This new scheme has been devised taking account of research on eInclusion as well as learning from what worked well in previous schemes. There is now a stronger focus on raising awareness of the potential benefits, and, on getting more people to use technology, as well as on maximising value for money.

Besides the benefits for individuals themselves from technology use there will be benefits for society and the economy as more people become comfortable in the use of technology. By using technologies such as on-line transactions people can access services more easily, transact them more quickly and more cost effectively. There will be benefits also in terms of public sector efficiency as on-line service provision is less costly than service provision by traditional means. The EU has estimated that by halving the numbers who are “eExcluded” economic benefits worth €85 billion could be achieved across the EU.

1  
Record 41

**From:** Colm Ó Conaill  
**Sent:** 12 December 2008 09:40  
**To:** Brendan O'Reilly  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Aoife McQuillan  
**Sent:** 23 October 2008 17:28  
**To:** Colm Ó Conaill  
**Subject:** FW:

Colm,


Attached is notice that Eamonn is proposing to issue tomorrow. I have attached also draft working arrangements doc to issue at the same time. It only covers PQs and submissions (at the moment!). Can you think of anything else the merits inclusions?

Rgds  
A

*Aoife McQuillan*  
*Private Secretary to Minister of State Seán Power T.D.*  
*Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources*  
*29-31 Adelaide Road*  
*Dublin 2.*

*t. 00353 1 678 2024*  
*f. 00353 1 661 0061*  
*Leinster House: 00353 1 618 3806*

*w. [www.dcenr.gov.ie](http://www.dcenr.gov.ie)*

 *Please consider the environment before printing this email.*

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**From:** Eamonn Molloy  
**Sent:** 23 October 2008 16:40  
**To:** Aoife McQuillan  
**Subject:**

Aoife

Would it be an idea to add on whatever bits you want onto my notice?

Eamonn

## **Energy and Natural Resources (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2008**

On Tuesday last 21<sup>st</sup> October, the Taoiseach signed the above-mentioned Order which delegates to Minister of State Power certain of the Minister's statutory functions in relation to energy and natural resources.

The statutory functions delegated are in the following areas –

- Exploration and Mining
- Petroleum Affairs
- the Geological Survey of Ireland
- the Ordnance Survey of Ireland
- Inland Fisheries

In addition, the Minister of State will be responsible on a non-statutory basis for issues relating to the information society including –

- Preparation of the third national plan on the Information Society
- Management of the e-inclusion initiative
- EU and international reporting on the Information Society

**Eamonn Molloy**

Assistant Secretary

23 October, 2008

Working Arrangements

**Parliamentary Questions**

PQs which fall for reply by Minister of State as part of his delegated functions are to be formatted as follows:

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REPLY

**Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Mr. S. Power)**

This office will arrange for replies to be forwarded to Minister Ryan's office as necessary

**Submissions**

All submissions which fall under Minister of State Power's delegated functions are to be sent in the usual way through the division to the Minister of State for approval/sign off.

Submission cover sheet that is currently in use can still be used.

As with PQs, this office will arrange for onward transmission to Minister Ryan's office as necessary.

Minister of State Power would request that all submissions and matters of departmental importance which do not fall under his delegated functions are copied to this office for his information only. It is the responsibility of each division to ensure that this is done as it cannot be done when the submission reaches the Secretary General's office.

Record 42

142

**From:** Colm Ó Conaill  
**Sent:** 12 December 2008 09:40  
**To:** Brendan O'Reilly  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Colm Ó Conaill  
**Sent:** 28 October 2008 09:40  
**To:** Barbara Dillon; Jade Fitzpatrick; Sinéad O'Reilly; Brendan O'Reilly; Siobhan Greene; Aoife Nolan; Marie Gibney  
**Subject:**

Hi folks,

In light of the below memo and attached government decision, we will have to devise some new working arrangements with regard to the delegated functions and the Minister of State's Office.

Before formal working arrangements are agreed it would best for now to send submissions, reps, and other matters pertaining to the delegated functions to the office of the Minister of State for decision.

PQs for the Minister of State's attention should be treated in the same way (with the exception of this week for orals as Minister Power is unavailable).

It would also be useful to keep a copy of material that inadvertently arrives here for the Minister's information.

Regards,

Colm



Ref:

17/10/2008

**Oifig an Aire Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha**  
**Memorandum for the Government**  
**AN tORDÚ FUINNIMH (FEIDHMEANNA AIRE A THARMLIGEAN) 2008**  
**ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DELEGATION OF**  
**MINISTERIAL FUNCTIONS) ORDER 2008**

Colm Ó Conaill,  
Private Secretary to Minister Eamon Ryan, T.D.,  
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,  
29-31 Adelaide Road,  
Dublin 2.

Direct: 01 6782004  
Dáil: 01 6183262  
Fax: 01 6782029  
Mobile: 087 6809541

Email: [Colm.OConaill@dcenr.gov.ie](mailto:Colm.OConaill@dcenr.gov.ie)

**From:** Brendan O'Reilly  
**Sent:** 24 October 2008 18:06  
**To:** Eamonn Molloy  
**Cc:** Dorothy McCauley; Aoife McQuillan; Colm Ó Conaill  
**Subject:** Gov Decision - Delegation of Functions

Hi

Please find attached a copy of the Gov. decision in relation to the above memo.

Thanks

Brendan O'Reilly  
Minister's Office  
Tel: 01 678 2014



5

Revised

Uimhir Thagartha: S180/20/10/1139

## CRUINNIÚ RIALTAIS

**Dáta: 21/10/2008**

**Ábhar:** An tOrdú Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha (Feidhmeanna Aire a Tharmligean) 2008  
Energy and Natural Resources (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2008

**An tAire a thionscain:** Oifig an Aire Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha

**Dáta an Mheabhráin:** 17/10/2008

### **Cinneadh an Rialtais:**

Made an Order entitled

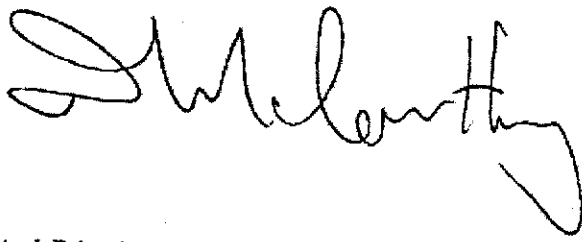
Energy and Natural Resources (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2008

in the terms of the draft that accompanied the memorandum; and

Brian Cowen, Taoiseach authenticated with his signature the official seal of the Government which was affixed to the Order.

This Department is making arrangements to

- (1) lay the Order before each House of the Oireachtas; and
- (2) publish a notice of the making of the Order in Iris Oifigiúil in accordance with Section 3 (1) (c) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1947, as amended by Section 1 of the Statutory Instruments (Amendment) Act 1955.



Ard-Rúnaí an Rialtais

Cóip curtha chuig: Oifig an Aire Airgeadais, Oifig an Taoisigh, Oifig an Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta, Oifig an Aire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil, Oifig an Aire Sláinte agus Leanaí

Record 43

150

**From:** Peter O'Neill  
**Sent:** 12 November 2008 11:04  
**To:** Dave Hanley  
**Cc:** Eamonn Molloy; Aidan Dunning; Barry McSweeney  
**Subject:** RE: Knowledge society specs.

Dave

Just one addition to the PO to convey a sense of urgency around the broadband duties as requested by the Minister.

Peter

---

**From:** Dave Hanley  
**Sent:** 12 November 2008 09:52  
**To:** Peter O'Neill  
**Cc:** Eamonn Molloy; Aidan Dunning; Barry McSweeney  
**Subject:** Knowledge society specs.  
**Importance:** High

If I have not heard anything from you I will assume these are ok and will send them on to Finance by lunchtime.

*Dave Hanley*  
*Personnel Officer*  
*DCENR*

**From:** Eamonn Molloy  
**Sent:** 19 November 2008 11:52  
**To:** Everyone in the Department  
**Subject:** Delegation of Functions to Minister of State

## Staff Notice

### Delegation of Functions to Minister of State Power

#### 1. Energy and Natural Resources (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2008

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, the Taoiseach signed the above-mentioned Order which delegates to Minister of State Power certain of the Minister's statutory functions in relation to energy and natural resources (copy attached).

The statutory functions are in the areas of –

- Exploration and Mining
- Petroleum Affairs
- the Geological Survey of Ireland
- Ordnance Survey Ireland
- Inland Fisheries

In addition, the Minister of State will be responsible on a non-statutory basis for issues relating to the information society including –

- Preparation of the third national plan on the Information Society
- Management of the e-inclusion initiative
- EU and international reporting on the Information Society

Minister of State Power has been performing duties covered in the Order on a non-statutory basis since his appointment as Minister of State in May last.

#### 2. Working Arrangements

All submissions which fall under Minister of State Power's delegated functions are to be sent in the usual way through the Division and Secretary General to the Minister of State for approval/signoff.

The submission cover sheet that is currently in use can still be used.

As with PQ's, the Minister of State's office will arrange for onward transmission to Minister Ryan's office as necessary.

Matters dealt with by the Minister of State but which relate to the Minister's constituency should be brought to his notice before any decisions are finalised or published. In particular, the Minister must be consulted in respect of any specific allocations relating to his constituency.

All submissions and matters of departmental importance which **do not** fall under the Minister of State's delegated functions should be copied to his office for his information. It is the responsibility of each division to ensure that this is done as it cannot be done by the Secretariat when the submission reaches the Secretary General's office due to the volume of submissions involved

**3. Additional Ad Hoc Delegation**

It is envisaged that additional functions may be assigned to the Minister of State from time to time on an ad hoc basis. In particular, the Minister may routinely call on the Minister of State to take a Bill or a Motion through either House of the Oireachtas or to deal with matters arising on the adjournment of either house.

**4. Dáil Questions**

The Minister of State will take Questions concerning his area of responsibility.

**5. Representations**

Replies to representations made to the Minister of State can generally be dealt with in the normal way. However, where the matter at issue is outside the area of responsibility of the Minister of State concerned and the reply goes beyond the provision of factual information within settled policy, the draft should be routed through the Runaí Aire.

**6. Press Queries, Speeches, etc.**

All replies to press queries, statements, speeches, events etc. regarding any of the Department's functions will be issued by the Department's Press Office having regard, as appropriate, to the above division of tasks between Ministers. In appropriate cases, press releases may issue in the joint names of the Minister and the Minister of State.

Eamonn Molloy  
Assistant Secretary  
November, 2008.



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

S.I. No. 460 of 2008

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ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DELEGATION OF  
MINISTERIAL FUNCTIONS) ORDER 2008

(Prn. A8/1740)

S.I. No. 460 of 2008

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DELEGATION OF  
MINISTERIAL FUNCTIONS) ORDER 2008

The Government, on the request of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 2(1) of the Ministers and Secretaries (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1977 (No. 28 of 1977), hereby order as follows:

1. This Order may be cited as the Energy and Natural Resources (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2008.

2. The powers (other than the power to prosecute an offence) and duties of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources conferred on him—

(a) by or under the enactments specified in Part 1,

(b) by or under the provisions of the enactments specified in Part 2, and

(c) under the Regulations made under section 3 of the European Communities Act 1972 (No. 27 of 1972) specified in Part 3,

of the Schedule are delegated to Sean Power, Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

*Notice of the making of this Statutory Instrument was published in  
"Iris Oifigiúil" of 31st October, 2008.*

## SCHEDULE

*Part 1*

## ENACTMENTS

- Geological Survey Act 1845 (8&9 Vict.) c.63.  
Shannon Fisheries Acts 1935 and 1938.  
Minerals Development Acts 1940 to 1999.  
Foyle Fisheries Acts 1952 to 1983.  
Fisheries Acts 1959 to 2007.  
Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act 1960 (No. 7 of 1960).  
Continental Shelf Acts 1968 to 1995.  
Ordnance Survey Ireland Act 2001 (No. 43 of 2001).  
Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries Act 2007 (No. 17 of 2007).

*Part 2*

## PROVISIONS OF ENACTMENTS

- Sections 11 and 16 of the Electricity (Supply) (Amendment) Act 1945 (No. 12 of 1945).  
Sections 5, 6 and 10 of the Electricity (Supply)(Amendment) Act 1961 (No. 2 of 1961).  
~~Section 40 of the Gas Act 1976 (No. 30 of 1976).~~  
~~Sections 17(5) and 23(3) of the Wildlife Act 1976 (No. 39 of 1976).~~  
~~Section 32 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 (No. 38 of 2000).~~  
Part 9 of the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 (No. 40 of 2006).

*Part 3*

## REGULATIONS

- Regulations 5 and 31 of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997).

4 [460]

Regulations 3, 12(8), 16(11) and 16(12) of the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003).



GIVEN under my Official Seal,  
21 October 2008

BRIAN COWEN,  
Taoiseach.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation)*

The Government made this Order to delegate to Sean Power Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the Statutory powers and duties of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources mentioned in the Order.

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH  
 ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR  
 Le ceannach díreach ón  
 OIFIG DHÍOLTA FOILSEACHÁN RIALTAIS,  
 TEACH SUN ALLIANCE, SRÁID THEACH LAIGHEAN, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2,  
 nó tríd an bpost ó  
 FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS, AN RANNÓG POST-TRÁCHTA,  
 AONAD 20 PÁIRC MIONDÍOLA COIS LOCHA, CLÁR CHLAINNE MHUIRIS,  
 CONTAE MHAIGH EO,  
 (Teil: 01 - 6476834/37 nó 1890 213434; Fax: 01 - 6476843 nó 094 - 9378964)  
 nó trí aon díoltóir leabhar.

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Wt. (B26525), 285. 11/08. Cahill. Gr. 30-15.

Record 45



Roinn an Taoisigh  
Department of the Taoiseach

*Ms Conall  
For immediate  
consideration, all  
commitments done  
Harley. Oct 10/10*

9 October 2008

*Oct 10/10*

RECEIVED IN SECRETARY  
GENERAL'S OFFICE  
66  
10 OCT 2008  
DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr Aidan Duffing  
Secretary General  
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
29-31 Adelaide Road  
Dublin 2

Dear Aidan

I refer to the announcement by the Taoiseach, Mr Brian Cowen, T.D., of the transfer of the Information Society and inclusion to your Department. Following consultation with the Department of Finance I confirm that transfer of functions to your Department will be by way of a Further Revised Estimate for Votes 2 and 30. The transfer of functions will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.

I also confirm the following in relation to staffing and fund transfer to your Department in respect of 2008 and 2009.

Staffing 2008/2009

A total of 7 posts are transferring from the Department of the Taoiseach to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The posts transferring are Principal Officer, Assistant Principal x 2, Higher Executive Officer x 2, Clerical Officer x 2.

Funds Transfer 2008

In 2008 a total of €3.187m will transfer from Department of the Taoiseach's Vote to Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Vote, comprising of €232,000 in respect of pay, €22,000 in respect of non-pay and €2,933m in respect of the inclusion programme fund.

Fund Transfer 2009

In 2009 a total of €3.507m will transfer from Department of the Taoiseach's Vote to Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Vote, comprising of €464,000 in respect of pay, €43,000 in respect of non-pay and €3,000,000 in respect of the inclusion programme fund.

*As*

Tithe an Rialtais, Baile Átha Cliath 2.  
Government Buildings, Dublin 2.

I would be grateful if you would confirm that this is in order by return.

Yours sincerely

*[Handwritten signature]*

Record 46

**From:** Susan Lowen  
**Sent:** 15 December 2008 17:15  
**To:** Eamonn Molloy; Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance  
**Subject:** Draft reply to D McCarthy re transfer of Info Society

Eamonn/Brian,

SG added the last line of the letter and asked me to run it by you. Please see attached & let me know if you are happy with this.

Susan

**Susan Lowen**  
**Private Secretary to Secretary General**  
**Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources**  
**29-31 Adelaide Road**  
**Dublin 2**  
**Tel. +353-1-6782032**  
**Fax. +353-1-6782079**  
**Mobile. +353-87-6781591**  
**Email. [Susan.Lowen@dcenr.ie](mailto:Susan.Lowen@dcenr.ie)**  
**Web. [www.dcenr.ie](http://www.dcenr.ie)**

Oifig an Árd Runai  
An Roinn Cumarsáide  
Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha  
Baile Átha Cliath 2



Office of the Secretary General  
Department of Communications  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Dublin 2

Website: [www.dcenr.ie](http://www.dcenr.ie)

Tel: + 353 1 678 2030  
Fax: + 353 1 678 2079

December 2008

Mr. Dermot McCarthy  
Secretary General  
Department of the Taoiseach  
Merrion Street  
Dublin 2

Dear Dermot

I refer to your letter of 9 October 2008 in relation to the transfer from the Department of the Taoiseach of the Information Society and eInclusion to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources by way of the Further Revised Estimate in respect of 2008 funds for Votes 2 and 30 which has been laid before the Oireachtas in October.

I confirm that the staffing and fund transfer in respect of 2008 (by Further Revised Estimate) and 2009 was in order and in accordance with the following details:

Staffing 2008/2009

A total of 7 posts were transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The posts transferred are Principal Officer; Assistant Principal X 2; Higher Executive Officer X 2; and Clerical Officer X 2.

Funds Transfer 2008

In 2008 a total of €3.187m transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach's Vote to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Vote, comprising €232,000 in respect of pay, €22,000 in respect of non-pay and €2.934m in respect of the eInclusion Programme.

Funds Transfer 2009

For 2009 a total of €3.507m transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach's Vote to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Vote, comprising €464,000 in respect of pay, €43,000 in respect of non-pay and €3,000,000 in respect of programme expenditure. This figure was subsequently reduced to €1m in Budget 2009.

Yours sincerely,

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Aidan Dunning  
Secretary General

Record 47

164

**From:** Susan Lowen  
**Sent:** 15 December 2008 17:46  
**To:** Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance  
**Cc:** Eamonn Molloy  
**Subject:** Letter to D McCarthy issued

Copy for your records.

Susan

**Susan Lowen**  
**Private Secretary to Secretary General**  
**Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources**  
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**Dublin 2**  
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**Email. [Susan.Lowen@dcenr.ie](mailto:Susan.Lowen@dcenr.ie)**  
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15 December 2008

Mr. Dermot McCarthy  
Secretary General  
Department of the Taoiseach  
Merrion Street  
Dublin 2

Dear Dermot,

I refer to your letter of 9 October 2008 in relation to the transfer from the Department of the Taoiseach of the Information Society and inclusion to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources by way of the Further Revised Estimate in respect of 2008 funds for Votes 2 and 30 which has been laid before the Oireachtas in October.

I confirm that the staffing and fund transfer in respect of 2008 (by Further Revised Estimate) and 2009 was in order and in accordance with the following details:

Staffing 2008/2009

A total of 7 posts were transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The posts transferred are Principal Officer; Assistant Principal X 2; Higher Executive Officer X 2; and Clerical Officer X 2.

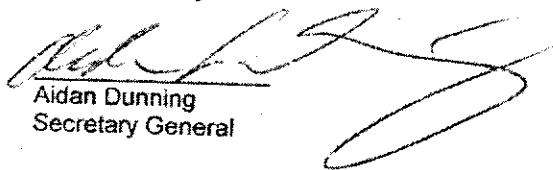
Funds Transfer 2008

In 2008 a total of €3.187m transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach's Vote to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Vote comprising €232,000 in respect of pay, €22,000 in respect of non-pay and €2.934m in respect of the inclusion Programme.

Funds Transfer 2009

For 2009 a total of €3.507m transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach's Vote to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Vote comprising €464,000 in respect of pay, €43,000 in respect of non-pay and €3,000,000 in respect of programme expenditure. €1m was subsequently allocated to the inclusion Programme for 2009.

Yours sincerely,

  
Aidan Dunning  
Secretary General

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 937****Dail Eireann**

To ask the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the progress of the roll-out of the technology for the elderly scheme which was announced earlier in 2008 and in particular the plans for the roll-out in areas (details supplied) in Dublin north.

- Darragh O'Brien.

\* For WRITTEN answer on Thursday, 10th July, 2008.

Balbriggan, Skerries, Rush, Lusk, Donabate, Portrane, Swords, Malahide, Portmarnock, Kinsealy and Balgriffin

Ref No: 28305/08 Proof: 103

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**REPLY**

**Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Mr S Power)**

I gather that the scheme in question is one which was proposed by the then Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach with responsibility for the Information Society. It envisaged seeking to raise awareness amongst seniors of the potential benefits to them of modern communications technologies, the internet and mobile phones.

As you will be aware, responsibility for Information Society – including eInclusion, under which this scheme would fall, - has been transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach to the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources. In the context of the transfer it will be necessary for my Department to now consider which initiatives should now be proceeded with – having regard to current priorities

and available resources. The position in respect of this scheme will be considered in this context. A decision will be made over the coming months.

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 142**

**Dail Eireann**

To ask the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if, in relation to the Budget 2009 estimates he will justify the €1.2 million increase in the salaries and wages of his Department in the context of the commitment to find savings in expenditure; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- John O'Mahony. (Nominated by: Simon Coveney).

For ORAL answer on Wednesday, 29th October, 2008.

**Ref No:** 37234/08 **Lottery:** 46

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**REPLY**

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Mr. E. Ryan)**

The additional salary requirements set out in my Department's 2009 estimates reflect the once off transfer of the Information Society and eInclusion functions from the Department of the Taoiseach with the consequent increase in Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources staff numbers and a technical once off adjustment arising from the transfer of functions to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in 2007. The 2009 salary estimate also includes provision in respect of the 3% payroll cut required by Government.

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 414**

**Dail Eireann**

To ask the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the role and responsibilities of each of his Ministers of State; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- John O'Mahony.

\* For WRITTEN answer on Tuesday, 4th November, 2008.  
Identical Question(s): to all Depts.

Ref No: 38282/08 Proof: 477

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**REPLY**

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Mr. E. Ryan)**

Seán Power, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources is responsible for the statutory functions of the Minister in the areas of –

- Exploration and Mining
- Petroleum Affairs
- the Geological Survey of Ireland
- the Ordnance Survey Ireland
- Inland Fisheries

In addition, the Minister of State is responsible on a non-statutory basis for issues relating to the information society including –

- Preparation of the third national plan on the Information Society
- Management of the e-inclusion initiative
- EU and international reporting on the Information Society