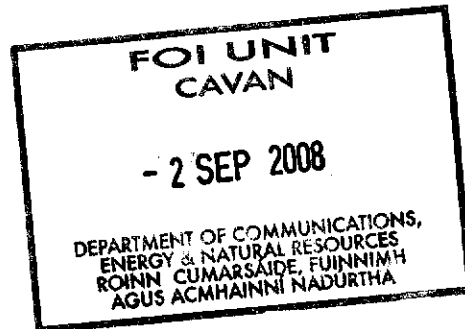


Baile Átha Cliath 4, Éire
Teileafón 01 208 3111
Facsimhír 01 208 3080

Dublin 4, Ireland
Telephone 01 208 3111
Telefax 01 208 3080



Sandra Hurley
RTE News
Donnybrook
Dublin 4
Tel: 01 2083224
Mobile: 087 2332044

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

August 29, 2008

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I am looking for any correspondence or records between the Department and An Post since January 2007.

Could you send photocopies of the records to the above address?

I enclose the EUR15 fee.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Hurley".

Sandra Hurley



Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádurtha

09/09/2008

Ms Sandra Hurley
RTE News,
Donnybrook,
Dublin 4

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2008/48

Dear Ms Hurley,

I refer to your FOI request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, received in this office on 05/09/2008 in relation to requesting any records, correspondence or documents relating to the post office network or sub-post office network, since January 2007. The application was received along with the associated fee.

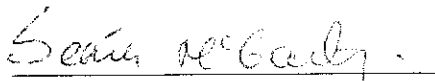
The officer handling your request will be Ms Nuala Free, Communications (Regulatory Affairs and Postal) Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29 – 31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2 016782705

You can expect to receive your decision by the 03/10/2008.

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,


Seána McGearty

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

Phone: 01 6782902

30th September 2008

Ms Sandra Hurley
RTE News
RTE
Donnybrook
Dublin 4

FOI/2008/48

Dear Ms Hurley,

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Act for access to records held by this Department in connection with the post office network or sub-post office since 1st January 2007.

Your request has been part granted and I attach all relevant information with this letter. Please find included a Schedule of all records associated with your request, detailing the order in which they are filed here.

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 of the case by appealing the decision to this Department's FOI Internal Review Board. To appeal, you need to write to the FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, 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 appropriate circumstances. The appeal 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. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money postal order, or personal cheque made payable to "The Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources".

On receipt of the fee, an acknowledgement letter will be sent to you outlining details of when you can expect a decision on your appeal, and the contact details of the person handling the appeal.

Yours sincerely,



Nuala Free
Communications (Regulatory Affairs & Postal)
PH: 01 678 2705

FOI Request Reference: FOI 2008/48

Schedule of Records: Summary of Decision Making

requesting any records, correspondence or documents relating to the post office network or sub-post office network, since January 2007.

| Record No. | Brief Description & Date of Record | File Ref. | No. of Pages | Relevant facts | Findings/ conclusions (Public Interest Considerations, (If applicable)) | Grant/refuse/ part-grant | Basis of Refusal: Section of Act | Record edited/Identify deletions |
|------------|---|-----------|--------------|----------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from Departments commentary on An Posts monthly account April 2008 | P1 2/1 | 1 | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 7 lines |
| 2 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from Departments commentary on An Posts monthly account March 2008 | P1 2/1 | 1 | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 7 lines |
| 3 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from Departments commentary on An Posts monthly account February 2008 | P1 2/1 | 1 | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 7 lines |
| 4 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from Departments commentary on An Posts monthly account January 2008 | P1 2/1 | 1 | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 9 lines |
| 5 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from Departments commentary on An Posts monthly account December 2007 | P1 2/1 | 1 | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 6 lines |
| 6 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from Departments commentary on An Posts monthly account November 2007 | P1 2/1 | 1 | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 6 lines |
| 7 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from Departments commentary on An Posts monthly account October 2007 | P1 2/1 | 1 | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 1 line |

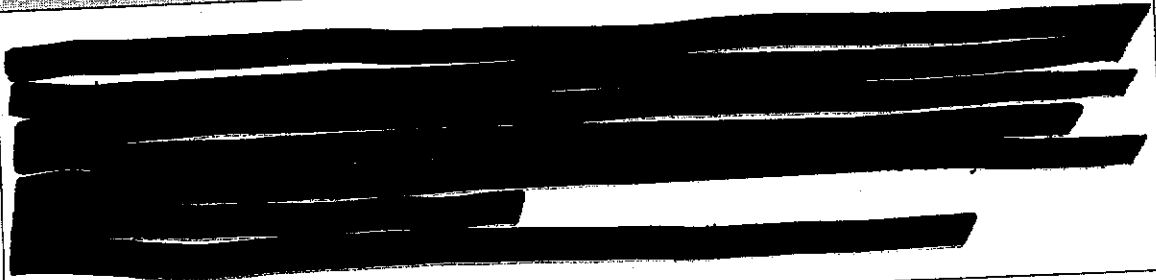
| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------|---|--|--|--|--|------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 8 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from Departments commentary on An Posts monthly account September 2007 | P1 2/1 | 1 | | | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 2 lines |
| 9 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from Departments commentary on An Posts monthly account August 2007 | P1 2/1 | 1 | | | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 3 lines |
| 10 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from a note of a meeting with An Post 5 th July 2007 | | | | | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 7 lines |
| 11 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from a note of a meeting with An Post 28 th September 2007 | | | | | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 3 lines |
| 12 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from a note of a meeting with An Post 17 th December 2007 | | | | | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 7 lines |
| 13 | Extract (relevant to the FOI request) from a note of a meeting with An Post 22 nd May 2008 | | | | | | | Part grant | Section 27 Commercially Sensitive | 13 lines |

Commentary on An Post Accounts @ end April 2008

1. Post Office Network:

The current network number stands at 1,438 in total, comprising 71 company offices, 25 converted contract offices, 1,161 sub-post offices and 181 postal agents. The recent severance scheme resulted in the closure of 91 post offices, 71 by end of 2007 and 20 in early 2008.

Department Commentary



*Postal Division
6th June 2008.*

Commentary on An Post Accounts @ end March 2008

1. Post Office Network:

The current network number stands at 1,442 in total, comprising 72 company offices, 24 converted contract offices, 1,162 sub-post offices and 184 postal agents.

[REDACTED]

| Department Commentary |
|-----------------------|
| [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] |

Commentary on An Post Accounts @ end February 2008

1. Post Office Network:

The current network number stands at 1,442 in total, comprising 72 company offices, 24 converted contract offices, 1,162 sub-post offices and 184 postal agents.

[REDACTED]

| Department Commentary |
|-----------------------|
| [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] |

Commentary on An Post Accounts @ end January 2008

1. Post Office Network:

The current network number stands at 1,442 in total, comprising 73 company offices, 23 converted contract offices, 1,162 sub-post offices and 184 postal agents.

[REDACTED]

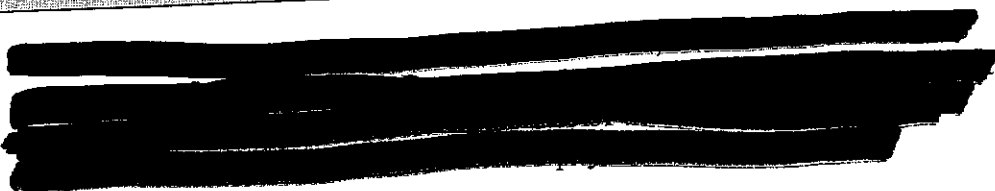


| Department Commentary |
|-----------------------|
| [REDACTED] |

5

Commentary on An Post Accounts @ end December 2007

1. Post Office Network



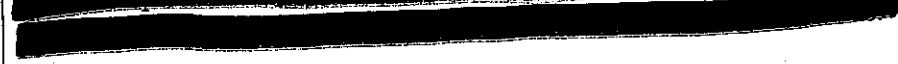


The current network number stands at 1,475 in total, comprising 74 company offices, 22 converted contract offices, 1,206 sub-offices and 173 Postal Agents.

| Department Commentary |
|---|
|  |
| 22 post offices to date have been converted from company owned to contractor operated. Further conversions are planned for 2008. There has been a reduction in the size of the network due to natural closures (retirements etc)  |
|  |

Commentary on An Post Accounts @ end November 2007

1. Post Office Network

The current network number stands at 1,475 in total, comprising 74 company offices, 22 converted contract offices, 1,206 sub-offices and 173 Postal Agents.

| Department Commentary |
|---|
|    |
| 22 post offices to date have been converted from company owned to contractor operated. Further conversions are planned for 2008. There has been a reduction in the size of the network due to natural closures (retirements etc).  |
|  |

Commentary on An Post Accounts @ end October 2007


1. Post Office Network

The current network number stands at 1,491 in total, comprising 75 company offices, 21 converted contract offices, 1,225 sub-offices and 170 Postal Agents.

Department Commentary

The Department has been notified of 54 Post Office closures to date in 2007.

An Post estimate that approximately 80 post offices will close by year end.



Commentary on An Post Accounts @ end September 2007

1. Post Office Network

The current network number stands at 1,500 in total, comprising 76 company offices, 20 converted contract offices, 1,232 sub-offices and 172 Postal Agents.

Department Commentary

The Department has been notified of 42 Post Office closures to date in 2007. Severance schemes for Postmasters recorded many last minute applications before the closing date of 28/9/07. An Post estimate that approximately 80 post offices will close by year end. [REDACTED]

Commentary on An Post Accounts @ end August 2007

1. Post Office Network

The current network number stands at 1,505 in total, comprising 77 company offices, 19 converted contract offices, 1,237 sub-offices and 170 Postal Agents. In respect of the take up for the Voluntary Severance and Voluntary Early Retirement schemes, a total of 24 employees have left in the year to date, bringing the total number to 94 since the schemes' launch in 2006.

Department Commentary

The Department has been notified of 30 Post Office closures to date in 2007. Under the severance scheme for postmasters, many last minute applications were submitted before the scheme's closing date of 28th September. An Post estimate that c 80 post offices will close by year end.

Note of meeting with An Post 5 July 2007

Attendance

An Post: Dónal Connell, Peter Quinn and Peter Gallagher

Department: Peter O'Neill, Patricia Cronin, John Rice and Lorraine O'Donoghue

Post Office Network

[REDACTED]

*Postal Division
6 July 2007*

11

Note of meeting with An Post 28th September 2007

In Attendance:

An Post: Peter Quinn (Financial Director)
Pat Knight (Human Resources Director)
Brian McCormick (Services Director)

Department: Patricia Cronin
John Rice
Iseult Raftery

Post Office Network

To date this year, there have been 29 post office closures. Under the severance package for postmasters, there were many 'last minute' applications for the scheme submitted before its closing date of 28th September. The company estimate that a total of 80 post offices will have closed before year end. It stated, however, that not all applications will be accepted, in particular those that relate to profitable offices in busy areas.

[REDACTED]

Postal Division
2nd October 2007.

Note of Meeting with An Post regarding Financials
17 December 2007

Attendance: Patricia Cronin, John Rice, Stephen O'Connor, Lorraine O'Donoghue (DECNR), Michael Perkins (DoF), Peter Quinn, Barney Whelan, Declan Harrington, Peter Gallagher (An Post)

Post Office Network

21 post offices have been converted from company owned to contractor operated. Further conversions are planned for 2008. There has been a reduction in the size of the network due to natural closures (retirements etc).

[REDACTED]

An Post

Briefing for Minister's Meeting with the Chairperson and Chief Executive of An Post - 22 May 2008

Post Office Network

[REDACTED]

Postal Section
20 May 2008