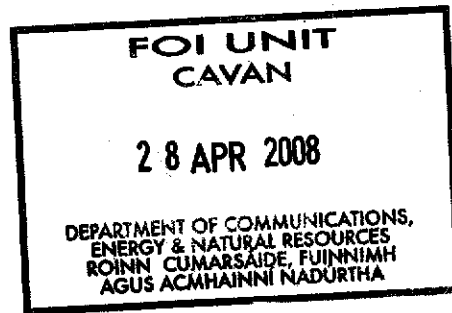


Conranstown House  
Conranstown  
Castletown Geoghegan  
Mullingar  
Co. Westmeath  
Ireland



T: +353 (44) 9226227  
M: +353 (87) 2598864  
F: +353 (875) 2598864  
E: minch@vodafone.ie

Friday, 25 April 2008

Mary Rabbitte,  
Freedom of Information Officer  
FOI Unit,  
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,  
Elm House,  
Earlsvale Road,  
Cavan

**Re: Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act.**

Dear Madam,

I hereby request under the Freedom of Information Act; the database of coverage information that informs the map entitled "Wireless and DSL Broadband Coverage".

The information should be current to date and should include the following:

The provider name.

The type of service. (DSL/cable/wireless/mobile/ or specified other)

The brand name of the service.

The map co-ordinate references (N/E, min 4 decimal places) of the exchange, sub exchange or base station. ( a note should be supplied indicating if an alternate type of map co-ordinate is being used)

The attributed radius of service from the above reference or the provider's submitted service footprint,

The transponder height from ground level.

The radio frequency spectrum in which the service operates.

An indication of whether the service is active or proposed,

Any other relevant information supplied by the service provider concerning the affects of weather or natural phenomena on the service in general or at particular sites, and information if the service operates part time or intermittently.

The information should preferably be supplied in electronic form by you or the ESRI as your agent; by email if less than 1MB and also by disk if greater than 1 MB.

If provided in electronic form, it should be useable by a commonly available application; Microsoft Access or Excel or as a text file with comma or tab separated values with field headers/descriptions. The file should be amenable to editing, printing, saving and copying.

If the information is less suitably supplied in paper form, it should be supplied as comma separated values or tabulated columnar with field descriptions.

I also request, if possible, a map contemporaneous to the above data. The map should be supplied if possible in its native format and as an Adobe Photoshop file complete with layers. The files should be amenable to editing, printing, saving and copying.

The information is being sought with a view to gathering feedback concerning possible discrepancies between theoretical coverage and the actual service experience.

As the information sought is no more than an aggregation of promotional claims made by service providers it is therefore not commercially sensitive.

I look forward to an early reply with the requested information within the statutory period.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Minch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stephen Minch

Cheque enclosed €15

As Jared 25/04/2008 00:10:50



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

28<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

Mr Stephen Minch,  
Conranstown House,  
Conranstown,  
Castletown Geoghegan,  
Mullingar,  
Co. Westmeath

FOI/0030/2008

Dear Mr Minch,

I refer to the Freedom of Information request received in this office on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 along with the associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Mr Garry Purcell, Communications(Development) & Electronic Commerce Division, Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, 29 – 31 Adelaide Rd., Dublin 2. He can be contacted at 01 6782553.

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 27th May, 2008.

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 Mr. Frank O'Brien, FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd., Cavan. 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, Energy & 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,

Mary Rabbitte  
FOI Unit  
PH: 01 6782903

**Garry Purcell**

---

**From:** Garry Purcell  
**Sent:** 26 May 2008 16:30  
**To:** 'minch@vodafone.ie'  
**Subject:** FOI Request Reference: FOI/2008/31

26/05/2008

Mr Stephen Minch

Conranstown House,  
Conranstown,  
Castletown Geoghegan,  
Mullingar,  
WestMeath,  
Ireland

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2008/31

Dear Mr Minch,

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, concerning Wireless and DSL Broadband Coverage.

I have made a final decision on your request. The provider names are already public information, and can be viewed as a word document in the NBS section of the Department's website, [www.dcenr.gov.ie](http://www.dcenr.gov.ie). Of the listed providers, only Eircom is a DSL operator and all the remaining providers are wireless, with 3 Ireland being a mobile wireless provider. We did not ask for the brandname of the services for the NBS mapping process.

The rest of the information that you requested is being withheld under section 27.(1) of the FOI Act : Subject to subsection (2), a head shall refuse to grant a request under section 7 if the record concerned contains\_

- (a) trade secrets of a person other than the requester concerned,
- (b) financial, commercial, scientific or technical or other information whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss or gain to the person to whom the information relates, or could prejudice the competitive position of that person in the conduct of his or her profession or business or otherwise in his or her occupation, or
- (c) information whose disclosure could prejudice the conduct or outcome of contractual or other negotiations of the person to whom the information relates.

By way of explanation, coverage details were provided to the DCENR by Service Providers on a confidential basis, and solely for the preparation of the NBS map in an aggregate format. The list of mapped SP's is available on our website, however, the DCENR does not release individual SP's coverage maps.

In order to get an indication of the services available in any particular area, you may wish to check the coverage on the [www.broadband.gov.ie](http://www.broadband.gov.ie) website run by DCENR, and contact relevant SP's for further details. This website also gives the brandname of certain services.

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,

---

Garry Purcell

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
29-31 Adelaide Road,  
Dublin 2

Phone: 016782553