



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

19 November 2008

Ms. Jennifer Hough,
Irish Examiner,
City Quarter,
Lapps Quay,
Cork.

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2008/56

Dear Ms. Hough,

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, concerning expenses paid out for the whole Department in each of the past three years, broken down under the following – accommodation, meals, travel – air fares and taxis, entertainment, mobile telephone calls / bills and mileage.

I have made a final decision to grant your request and all relevant details are in the table attached to this letter broken down as you requested, in so far as it is possible. The information has been taken from the Department's Financial Management System (FMS) - Agresso.

It should be noted that on 19 October 2007 the following functions, Coastal Zone Management, Marine Research and Development and Seafood and Fishery Harbour Development were transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and this Department changed name from Communications, Marine and Natural Resources to Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Records prior to this date refer to the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

In relation to travel (mileage) and subsistence (accommodation and meals) – officers employed on official business away from their headquarters and officers assigned to field duties are paid traveling and subsistence expenses within the rates authorized from time to time by the Minister for Finance. The subsistence allowance payable is not intended to meet the whole cost of subsistence when absent from home and headquarters and is not intended to be a source of emolument or profit. It is not possible to separate out figures in relation to mileage.

If you have any queries regarding this correspondence you can contact me by telephone at the number below.

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.

Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan

Telephone +353 1 6782000
LoCall 1890 44 99 00
Fax +353 1 6783057


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,


Pat Smyth,
Finance Unit.

Central Divisions - Corporate Finance & Planning Division,
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,
Elm House,
Earlsvale Road,
Cavan,
Co Cavan.

Phone: 01 - 6782071

Item	2006 €	2007 €	2008 to date €
Official Entertainment	31,585.72	60,238.29	17,996.41
Mobile Telephone costs	165,523.61	138,440.17	65,441.48
Travel and Subsistence	1,559,556.38	1,262,259.64	528,963.25
Airfares	354,489.00	344,143.00	207,415.00
Taxis	73,357.19	70,417.03	47,703.87
Totals	2,184,511.90	1,875,498.13	867,520.01



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

23rd October, 2008

Ms Jennifer Hough,
Irish Examiner,
City Quarter,
Lapps Quay,
Cork.

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2008/56

Dear Ms Hough,

I refer to your FOI request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, received in this office on 21st October, 2008 requesting records re. expenses for the whole Department for each of the past three years. The application was received along with the associated fee.


The officer handling your request will be Mr Pat Smyth, Corporate Finance & Planning Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd., Cavan. He can be contacted at 01 6782071.

You can expect to receive your decision by the 19th November, 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,


Mary Rabbitte

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

Phone: 01 6782903



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City Quarter, Lapps Quay, Cork

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TeleSales: 021 4274455
Editorial: 021 4802101

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Sales fax: 01 6056305
Editorial fax: 01 6056355

Fax numbers
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Advertising: 021 4273846
Telesales: 021 4271017
Admin / Finance: 021 4275074
Circulation: 021 4802202

LIMERICK OFFICE
89 O'Connell Street, Limerick
Reception: 061 414523
Fax: 061 414504

Email: firstname.secondname@irishexaminer.ie
www.irishexaminer.com

17th October, 2008

**FOI Officer,
Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and 2003 I would like to request the following information:

How much was paid out on expenses for the whole department in each of the past three years.

And a break down of the figures under subsections, if possible, accommodation, meals, travel – air fares and taxis, entertainment, mobile telephone calls/ bills and mileage and miscellaneous.

Yours faithfully,

**Jennifer Hough,
Reporter,
087-2167013 / 021-4802263**