

FOI UNIT
CAVAN

16 JUN 2009

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS,
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
ROINN CUMARSAIDÉ, FUINNIMH
AGUS ACMHAINNÍ NADURTHA

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

03/06/2009

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 the following records for all individual Ministers and Ministers of State past and present appointed to the department since 2004.

How much was spent by the department on IT facilities/supports/services made available to the minister primarily for use by the minister at their home, constituency office or at unspecified locations.

Included should be a list - per minister - broken down to show any and all hardware including (if applicable): PDAs, PCs, laptops, servers, routers, firewalls, switches, racks, UPS', notebooks, netbooks, Macs and other computer equipment. Also included should be computer software, applications, mobile broadband services, satellite navigation equipment, digital dictation or voice recognition services and any other technology services.

Did the department develop any databases or applications for use in the management of the Ministers' constituency correspondence and what was the cause of this?

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.

Regards,


Luke Byrne



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

30th June, 2009

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

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2009/20

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 June, 2009 requesting records in relation to monies spent by the department on IT facilities/supports/services made available to the minister primarily for use by the minister at their home, constituency office or at unspecified locations.. The application was received along with the associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Mr. Joe Birthistle, Information Systems Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29 – 31 Adelaide Rd., Dublin 2. Joe can be contacted at 01 6782205.

You can expect to receive your decision by the 14/07/2009.

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

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



Department of Communications,
Energy and Natural Resources,
Dublin 2

Mr Luke Byrne,
The Irish Mail on Sunday
Embassy House
Ballsbridge
Dublin 2

Re: FOI request for information on services provided to Ministers and Ministers of State

Dear Mr Byrne

Further to your FOI request, and as per our telephone conversation of around the end of June the records we hold in relation to your request are fragmented between different documents, so I am enclosing an extract from our records showing the hardware equipment provided to Ministers and Ministers of State for personal, constituency and home use.

For information it should be noted that when a Minister leaves a Department the equipment will be retrieved if they return to the back-benches because the Oireachtas IT unit then provides ICT services to them. If a Minister is transferred to another Government Department the equipment will be retrieved or transferred to their new Department, depending on whichever is the more cost effective option

With regards to the cost of providing services, we do not record the individual costs for helpdesk requests from the Ministers (or any other office) in the Department. We have no records of Ministers using mobile broadband devices, satellite navigation, voice recognition services, etc.

Ministers will bring a variation of a Lotus Notes database for managing constituency correspondence with them when they arrive in a Department. This application was originally developed by the Department of Finance in the 1990's and subsequently maintained by the Oireachtas. The Department would normally be asked to modify letters issued with these systems to reflect the change in their title and official address. This work would take approx 1 day per Minister, at a cost of approximately €500.

Should you require any further clarification on the information contained in the attached table, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Joe Birthistle
Information Systems Division
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road
DDI +353 (0)1 678 2205
FAX +353 (0)1 678 2219
email joe.birthistle@dcentr.gov.ie

Joe Birthistle

From: Joe Birthistle
Sent: 17 August 2009 12:04
To: 'byrne.luke@gmail.com'
Subject: DCENR - FOI request equipment issued to Ministers
Attachments: FOI Luke Byrne.doc; Devices issued to Ministers.doc

Mr Byrne,

apologies for the unforgivable delay in responding to your FOI request of 03 June that I am only replying to now.

As I indicated in our phone conversation in June, the records of equipment available to ministers in their home or constituency office are dispersed between a number of documents (such as annual inventories) so I am providing an extract of those in the document "Devices issued to ministers.doc". The covering letter is in the file "FOI Luke Byrne.doc".

Should you require any clarifications or additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Again apologies for the late reply

Regards

Joe Birthistle

Information Systems Division

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

29-31 Adelaide Road

DDI +353 (01 678 2205

FAX +353 (0)1 678 2219

email joe.birthistle@dcenr.gov.ie

	Personal devices	Constituency Office			Home			
		Type	Make	Model	Type	Make	Model	
Noel Dempsey TD	Sept 2004 - July 2007	Printer	Brother	HL-5150D				
		Printer	Brother	HL-7050N				
		Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex 170L				
		Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex 170L				
		Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex 170L				
		Server	Dell	PowerEdge 830				
		Scanner	Hewlett Packard	Scanjet 7650				
		Router	Cisco	1700 Series				
		Switch	Cisco	Catalyst 2900 Series				
		The above PCs were replaced in 2006 as part of a organisation wide operating system upgrade with						
		Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex 210L				
		Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex GX520				
		Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex GX520				
		Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex 210L				
Printer	Oki	C3300N/C3400N						
Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex GX520						
Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex GX520						
Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex GX520						
Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex GX520						
Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex GX520						
Eamonn Ryan TD	Blackberry Dell D820 Laptop	Minister Ryan has not operated a local constituency office to date			Desktop	Dell	OptiPlex GX520	
	July 2007 - data							

Tony Killeen TD	June 07 - May 2008	Blackberry	Minister Killeen was also Minister of State in the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government at this time, and any home or constituency computing was provided by that Department						
Sean Power TD	May 2008 - April 2009	Blackberry	Desktop Printer	Dell Oki	OptiPlex GX520 C3300N/C3400N				
Conor Lenihan TD	April 2009 - to date	Blackberry	Minister Lenihan is also a Minister of State the Departments of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and of Education and Science. Any home or constituency office facilities are being provided through them.						