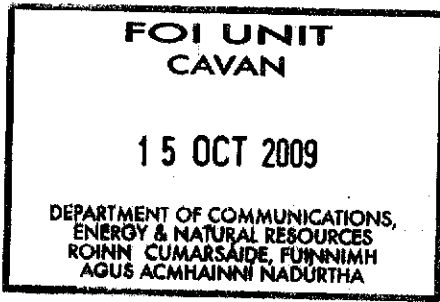


IS 444



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

13/10/2009

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.

For records:

I request copies of all internal correspondence within the department (including to the office of the minister and the ministers secretaries, assistants and press officers).

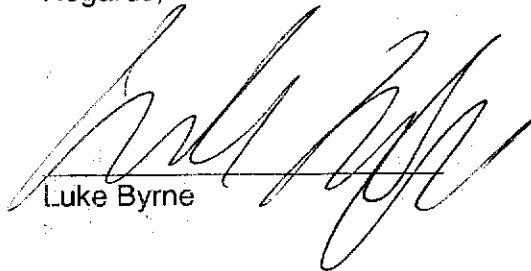
Relating to:

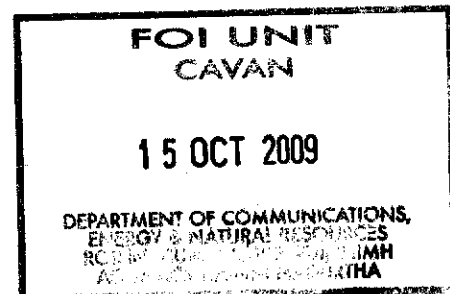
Copies of the correspondence including all memos, emails letters etc... since Jan 1st 2009 in relation to requests made under the FoI Act for details of expenses, foreign travel expenses and the ministers expenses.

You can send me the information by e-mail: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie, or by hard copy, whichever is most desirable for your department.

If you have any further questions please contact me on 086-165-9603, Tuesday – Saturday.

Regards,


Luke Byrne





Ref: FOI 2009/45

14th January 2010

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

Dear Mr. Byrne

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 for records held by this Department:

Copies of the correspondence including memo's, emails, letter etc... since Jan 1st 2009 in relation to requests made under the FOI Act for details of expenses, foreign travel expenses and the ministers expenses.

I made a final decision to **part grant** your request on 14th January 2010. The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision. This explanation has the following parts:

1. a schedule of all of the records covered by your request
2. concerning records to which access is granted, an explanation and a statement of the arrangements for this access
3. concerning records to which access is denied, an explanation of relevant findings
4. a statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these parts in turn.

A schedule is attached at the end of this letter. It shows the documents that this Department considers relevant to your request. It also gives you a summary and overview of the decision as a whole.

In identifying the records relevant to your request material was sought from the following areas within the Department which would have dealt with Freedom of Information requests in relation to Ministerial expenses:

- Freedom of Information Unit,
- Accounts Branch,
- Human Resources Division,
- Ministers Office,
- Ministers of States Office,
- Secretary's Generals Office,
- Press Office,
- Assistant Secretary General, Corporate Services.

For ease of reference, where relevant records were supplied from these areas, they have been grouped accordingly and then arranged chronologically.

You have sought access to the records by means of email or photocopies. I consider photocopies an appropriate form of access in this case and accordingly photocopies of the records are now enclosed.

Section 28 of the Freedom of Information Act protects the privacy of individuals by allowing the withholding of personal information held by a public body from third party access. One record which

formed part of a series of emails in relation to the processing of this request contained personal details of staff members which I am refusing to grant access to. Details of this record are contained in the schedule of records attached.

You may appeal this decision. In the event that you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan or alternatively by sending an e-mail to FOI.Unit@dcour.gov.ie. Please note, that a fee set at €75 applies for an appeal. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, however, 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.

I apologise for the delay in processing this request.

If you have any queries regarding this correspondence you can contact me by telephone at 01 6782000.

Yours sincerely,


Brian Walsh
Corporate Finance and Planning Division

FOI Request Reference:

Schedule of Records: Summary of Decision Making

Rec. No	Brief description and date of record	File Ref	No. of pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Reason for Decision	Public Interest Considerations (for and against release)	Record Edited/ Identify Deletions
1	Emails from FOI staff members dated 15/01/2009 – 02/10/2009 RE: FOI Requests	N/A	98	Grant			N/A	N/A
2	Emails from Corporate Finance & Planning staff members dated 30-01-2009 – 01/12/2009 RE: FOI Requests	N/A	144 1	Grant Edit and Grant	Section 28(1)	Third party information not relevant to the request	N/A N/A	N/A Email of 13/02/09 from C. Denning containing Third party details edited

Rec. No	Brief description and date of record	File Ref	No. of pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Reason for Decision	Public Interest Considerations (for and against release)	Record Edited/ Identify Deletions
3	Emails from Minister & Minister of States Office dated 13/02/2009 - 20/11/2009 RE: FOI Requests	N/A	111	Grant			N/A	N/A
4	Emails from Human Resources Division dated 30/01/2009 - 11/03/2009 RE: FOI Requests	N/A	24	Grant			N/A	N/A
5	Emails from Minister of States office dated 29/07/09 - 17/11/09 RE: FOI Requests	N/A	29	Grant	Section 28(1)	Third party information not relevant to the request	N/A	N/A
			1	Edit and Grant			N/A	Email of 13/02/09 from C.Denning containing Third party details edited

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2009/45

Schedule of Records: Summary of Decision Making

Rec. No	Brief description and date of record	File Ref	No. of pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Reason for Decision	Public Interest Considerations (for and against release)	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
1	Emails re. FOI/2009/03		20					
2	Emails re. FOI/2009/07		13					
3	Emails re. FOI/2009/27		3					
4	Emails re. FOI/2009/30		23					
5	Emails re. FOI/2009/31		13					
6	Emails re.		16					

Rec. No	Brief description and date of record	File Ref	No. of pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Reason for Decision	Public Interest Considerations (for and against release)	Record Edited/ Identify Deletions
	FOI/2009/33							
7	Emails re. FOI/2009/34		17					
8	Emails re. FOI/2009/35		3					

Record 1

ary Rabbitte

From: Brian Walsh
Sent: 20 November 2009 11:46
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: FW: Request for material re FOI Request
Attachments: Luke Byrne - Requests made under FOI Act.pdf

Please see attached FOI request from Luke Bryne , Irish Mail on Sunday requesting copies of all internal correspondence relating to requests made under the FOI Act for details of expenses, foreign travel expenses and Ministers expenses since the 1st January 2009.

Can you let me have copies of all relevant records and a schedule containing the date and brief description of each record held by the FOI Unit

Unfortunately, there was a delay in assigning a decision maker to this request which was due for decision on the 13th November. Accordingly, every effort should be made to forward the requested material without further delay to finalise this matter.

If you have any queries please contact me.

Thanks

Brian

Brian Walsh
Accounts Section
Corporate Finance and Planning Division
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Elm House
Cavan
Tel . 01 6782423 Email: brian.walsh@dcecr.gov.ie

**FOI UNIT
CAVAN**

15 OCT 2009

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS,
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
ROINN CUMARSÁIDE, FUINNIMH
AGUS ACMHAINNÍ MADURTHA

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

13/10/2009

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.

For records:

I request copies of all internal correspondence within the department (including to the office of the minister and the ministers secretaries, assistants and press officers).

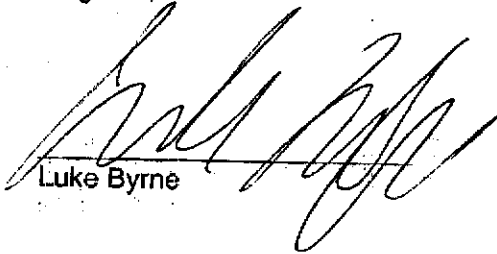
Relating to:

Copies of the correspondence including all memos, emails letters etc... since Jan 1st 2009 in relation to requests made under the FoI Act for details of expenses, foreign travel expenses and the ministers expenses.

You can send me the information by e-mail: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie, or by hard copy, whichever is most desirable for your department.

If you have any further questions please contact me on 086-165-9603, Tuesday – Saturday.

Regards,


Luke Byrne

**FOI UNIT
CAVAN**

15 OCT 2009

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS,
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
ROINN CUMARSÁIDE, FUINNIMH
AGUS ACMHAINNÍ MADURTHA

Record No. 1

Mary Rabbitte


From: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie
Sent: 15 January 2009 17:08
To: undisclosed-recipients
Subject: Fol request for junior ministers expenses.
Attachments: Fol request for junior ministers expenses.doc

To Whom it May Concern.

The attached Fol request has been sent by me today along with the €15 application fee.

Kind Regards.

Luke Byrne,
Reporter,
The Irish Mail on Sunday
(00353) (0) 1 637-5917
(00353) (0) 86-165-9603
Fax: (00353) (0) 1 637 5880
Out of office hours email: byrneluke@gmail.com

 Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to. This e-mail and any attached files are intended for the named addressee only. It contains information, which may be confidential and legally privileged and also protected by copyright. Unless you are the named addressee (or authorised to receive for the addressee) you may not copy or use it, or disclose it to anyone else. If you received it in error please notify the sender immediately and then delete it from your system. Please be advised that the views and opinions expressed in this e-mail may not reflect the views and opinions of Associated Newspapers (Ireland) Ltd. or any of its subsidiary companies. We make every effort to keep our network free from viruses. However, you do need to check this e-mail and any attachments to it for viruses as we can take no responsibility for any computer virus which may be transferred by way of this e-mail. Use of this or any other e-mail facility signifies consent to any interception we might lawfully carry out to prevent abuse of these facilities.
Associated Newspapers (Ireland) Ltd. Registered Office: 3rd floor Embassy House, Herbert Park Lane, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Registered No 347441 Ireland.

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 16 January 2009 12:32
To: 'geraldine_fitzpatrick@entemp.ie'
Cc: Mary Rabbitte
Subject: RTE FOI Request
Attachments: Luke Byrne Irish Mail on Sunday.pdf

Hi Geraldine,
I have enclosed an FOI request which we received in our FOI unit today. Can you let me know if you received this request or a similar one?

Thanking you,
Carmel Cosgrove

Dept of Communications, Energy
& Natural Resources
Freedom of Information Unit
Elm House
Cavan

Tel: 01 6782902
Fax: 01 6783057
<mailto:carmel.cosgrove@dcenr.ie>

Mary Rabbitte

From: Carmel Cosgrove
Sent: 22 January 2009 12:13
To: Ann Kissane
Cc: Dave Hanley; Mary Rabbitte
Subject: FOI request from Irish Daily Mail
Attachments: Aiden Corkery Irish Daily Mail.pdf

Hi Ann

I have enclosed an FOI request which was received in FOI unit today. Can you confirm if you will be the Decision Maker on this FOI?

Regards,
Carmel Cosgrove

Dept of Communications, Energy
& Natural Resources
Freedom of Information Unit
Elm House
Cavan

Tel: 01 6782902

Fax: 01 6783057

<mailto:carmel.cosgrove@dcentr.ie>

Mary Rabbitte

From: Frank.O'Brien
Sent: 23 January 2009 09:33
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: FW: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Mary, Carmel,

Please see Denis's email beneath.

Can you put a copy on the request file.

Thanks

Frank

From: Denis Maher
Sent: 22 January 2009 15:36
To: Frank.O'Brien; Dave Hanley
Cc: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: RE: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Just to expand on that

Dave has recently taken over the Minister's and Minister of States Offices from me

The FOI challenge in both offices has always the absence of someone at sufficient rank (HEO) to be a decision maker

The manner in which it was handled was agreed as follows

1. a HEO in the parent division (now HR) would be assigned effectively "in loco" decision maker
2. the task of assembling the required info would be undertaken entirely by a staff member of the Minister's / MOS office
3. the Minister's office assignee would liaise with the "decision maker" and certify that the information was complete etc.
4. the decision maker would check the information and sign off

The whole method was to ensure that the leg work was carried out in the appropriate Unit (Mins or MOS offices) and not by a staff member in the parent division.

Denis

From: Frank.O'Brien
Sent: 22 January 2009 11:12
To: Dave Hanley
Cc: Denis Maher; Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: RE: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Dave,

Thanks for your email beneath.

Unfortunately we cannot refer the matter to the Minister of States office as there is no designated decision maker in that office. The FOI Units experience in these cases has been that Finance Unit will provide material in response to requests from the decision maker for specific data in these cases but they do not take on the decision maker role.

Can you advise who within your division will be assuming the decision maker role for this request and we will arrange to have it assigned on the Inquire system

Thanks

Frank

From: Dave Hanley
Sent: 20 January 2009 15:17
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: RE: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Carmel, HR would only hold records regarding salary paid to ministerial staff. The bulk of this request is more appropriate to The minister of State's office or to Finance Unit.

Dave

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 20 January 2009 15:15
To: Dave Hanley
Cc: Mary Rabbitte
Subject: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Hi Dave,
Can you confirm if this FOI is for your area?

Thanks
Carmel Cosgrove

Dept of Communications, Energy
& Natural Resources
Freedom of Information Unit
Elm House
Cavan

Tel: 01 6782902
Fax: 01 6783057
<mailto:carmel.cosgrove@dcenr.ie>

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 16 January 2009 12:30
To: Dave Hanley
Cc: Mary Rabbitte
Subject: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Hi Dave,

I have enclosed an FOI request which we received today. It's from Luke Byrne in the Irish Mail on Sunday requesting records regarding Junior Minister expenses since 1998. Is this proper to your area, and if so, could you please nominate a Decision Maker to deal with it.

Thanking you,
Carmel Cosgrove

Dept of Communications, Energy
& Natural Resources
Freedom of Information Unit
Elm House
Cavan

Tel: 01 6782902

Fax: 01 6783057

<mailto:carmel.cosgrove@dceur.ie>

Mary Rabbitte

From: Frank.O'Brien
Sent: 28 January 2009 17:31
To: Denis Maher
Subject: RE: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Denis,

The FOI Unit has had no response from D. Hanley on the FOI request referred to in your email beneath. At this stage there are only 12 working days left to complete the request before it falls into the Deemed Refused category, i.e. not answered within statutory deadlines.

As D. Hanley, rarely if ever acknowledges receipt of emails from me, you might consider sending him a reminder.

Thanks

Frank

From: Denis Maher
Sent: 22 January 2009 15:36
To: Frank.O'Brien; Dave Hanley
Cc: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: RE: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Just to expand on that

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From: Frank.O'Brien
Sent: 22 January 2009 11:12
To: Dave Hanley
Cc: Denis Maher; Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: RE: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Dave,

Thanks for your email beneath.

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Can you advise who within your division will be assuming the decision maker role for this request and we will arrange to have it assigned on the Inquire system

Thanks

Frank

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From: FOI UNIT
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Hi Dave,
Can you confirm if this FOI is for your area?

Thanks
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Dept of Communications, Energy
& Natural Resources
Freedom of Information Unit
Elm House
Cavan

Tel: 01 6782902
Fax: 01 6783057
<mailto:carmel.cosgrove@dcentr.ie>

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 16 January 2009 12:30
To: Dave Hanley
Cc: Mary Rabbitte
Subject: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Hi Dave,

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& Natural Resources
Freedom of Information Unit
Elm House
Cavan

Tel: 01 6782902

Fax: 01 6783057

<mailto:carmel.cosgrove@dcenr.ie>

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 29 January 2009 17:48
To: Frank.O'Brien
Subject: FW:

Frank,

Email below for your info.

Regards
Mary

From: Brian Walsh
Sent: 29 January 2009 17:43
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: RE:

Thanks Mary

Apparently Aoife Mcquillan is compiling the material and Ann Kissane is signing off on it. Hard to believe it took two weeks to sort that bit out!

Brian

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 29 January 2009 17:33
To: Brian Walsh
Subject:

Hi Brian,

I have attached a copy of the request received from Luke Byrne, Irish Mail on Sunday.

Kind Regards
Mary

*Mary Rabbitte,
FOI Unit,
DCENR,
Elm House,
Earlsvale Rd.,
Cavan.
01 6782903*

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 29 January 2009 15:41
To: Ann Kissane
Subject: FW: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday
Attachments: Luke Byrne Irish Mail on Sunday.pdf
Tracking:

Recipient	Read
Ann Kissane	Read: 29/01/2009 16:21
Carmel Cosgrove	

Hi Ann

I have attached a copy of the FOI request from Luke Byrne, Irish Mail on Sunday, the reference number for this request is FOI 2009 3.

Kind Regards
Mary

From: Denis Maher
Sent: 22 January 2009 15:36
To: Frank.O'Brien; Dave Hanley
Cc: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: RE: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

Just to expand on that

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Subject: RE: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

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To: Dave Hanley
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Thanks
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Dept of Communications, Energy
& Natural Resources
Freedom of Information Unit
Elm House
Cavan

Tel: 01 6782902
Fax: 01 6783057
<mailto:carmel.cosgrove@dcentr.ie>

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 16 January 2009 12:30
To: Dave Hanley
Cc: Mary Rabbitte
Subject: FOI request from the Irish Mail on Sunday

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& Natural Resources
Freedom of Information Unit
Elm House
Cavan

Tel: 01 6782902

Fax: 01 6783057

<mailto:carmel.cosgrove@dcenr.ie>

Mary Rabbitte

From: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie
Sent: 30 January 2009 12:41
To: Mary Rabbitte
Cc: FOI UNIT
Subject: Fol for junior ministers expenses

Dear Mary

Following up on our conversation I can confirm that I amend the dates of my request for junior ministers expenses to Nov 2004 - 2008.

Regards

Luke Byrne,
Reporter,
The Irish Mail on Sunday
(00353) (0) 1 637-5917
(00353) (0) 86-165-9603
Fax: (00353) (0) 1 637 5880
Out of office hours email: byrneLUKE@gmail.com



Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 30 January 2009 12:54
To: Ann Kissane
Cc: Brian Walsh; Carmel Denning; Aoife McQuillan
Subject: FW: FoI for junior ministers expenses FOI 2008 3

Tracking:

Recipient	Read
Ann Kissane	
Brian Walsh	
Carmel Denning	Read: 30/01/2009 12:58
Aoife McQuillan	Read: 30/01/2009 13:11

Hi Ann,

I refer to the email below, showing revised dates for which records are requested.

Kind Regards
Mary

From: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie [mailto:luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie]
Sent: 30 January 2009 12:41
To: Mary Rabbitte
Cc: FOI UNIT
Subject: FoI for junior ministers expenses

Dear Mary

Following up on our conversation I can confirm that I amend the dates of my request for junior ministers expenses to Nov 2004 - 2008.

Regards

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Reporter,
The Irish Mail on Sunday
(00353) (0) 1 637-5917
(00353) (0) 86-165-9603
Fax: (00353) (0) 1 637 5880
Out of office hours email: byrneluke@gmail.com



Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to

Mary Rabbitte

From: Frank.O'Brien
Sent: 30 January 2009 09:15
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: RE:

Thanks Mary

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 29 January 2009 17:48
To: Frank.O'Brien
Subject: FW:

Frank,

Email below for your info.

Regards
Mary

From: Brian Walsh
Sent: 29 January 2009 17:43
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: RE:

Thanks Mary

Apparently Aoife Mcquillan is compiling the material and Ann Kissane is signing off on it. Hard to believe it took two weeks to sort that bit out!

Brian

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 29 January 2009 17:33
To: Brian Walsh
Subject:

Hi Brian,

I have attached a copy of the request received from Luke Byrne, Irish Mail on Sunday.

Kind Regards
Mary

*Mary Rabbitte,
FOI Unit,
DCENR,
Elm House,
Earlsvale Rd.,
Cavan.
01 6782903*

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 05 February 2009 13:55
To: Carmel Denning
Subject: RE: FoI for junior ministers expenses FOI 2008 3

Hi Carmel,

The deadline for reply to this request is the 13th February, 2009.

If you have any queries in relation to this don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards
Mary

From: Carmel Denning
Sent: 05 February 2009 13:39
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: RE: FoI for junior ministers expenses FOI 2008 3

Mary

Can you tell me what date this FOI needs to be answered by?

Thanks
Carmel

Carmel Denning

*Accounts Section
Department of Communications, Energy
and Natural Resources
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
Co Cavan*

*ph +353 1 678 2114
Fax +353 1 678 2137*

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 30 January 2009 12:54
To: Ann Kissane
Cc: Brian Walsh; Carmel Denning; Aoife McQuillan
Subject: FW: FoI for junior ministers expenses FOI 2008 3

Hi Ann,

I refer to the email below, showing revised dates for which records are requested.

Kind Regards
Mary

From: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie [mailto:luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie]
Sent: 30 January 2009 12:41
To: Mary Rabbitte
Cc: FOI UNIT
Subject: FoI for junior ministers expenses

Dear Mary

Following up on our conversation I can confirm that I amend the dates of my request for junior ministers expenses to Nov 2004 - 2008.

Regards

Luke Byrne,
Reporter,
The Irish Mail on Sunday
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(00353) (0) 86-165-9603
Fax: (00353) (0) 1 637 5880
Out of office hours email: byrneluke@gmail.com



Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI.UNIT@dceur.ie
Sent: 08 February 2009 16:02
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: Inquire Alert

This is an alert to inform you that the following action occurred:

This is a reminder to inform you that the following Request is 5 days from its Deadline: FOI/2009/3

Date Action Occurred:
08/02/2009 16:02:08

To visit the site, click here:
<http://inquire>

Regards,

Inquire Business Systems Team

This is an automated email. If you have any queries, please feel free to either reply to this email, or
contact the FOI Unit on 01 6782000.

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI.UNIT@dcenr.ie
Sent: 18 February 2009 17:47
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: Inquire Alert

This is an alert to inform you that the following action occurred:

Ms Ann Kissane has just Accepted the role of DecisionMaker on this request: FOI/2009/3

Date Action Occurred:
18/02/2009 17:47:00

To visit the site, click here:
<http://inquire>

Regards,

Inquire Business Systems Team

This is an automated email. If you have any queries, please feel free to either reply to this email, or
contact the FOI Unit on 01 6782000.

Record No 2

Mary Rabbitte

From: Colm Ó Conaill
Sent: 17 February 2009 10:04
To: Dave Hanley; Aoife McQuillan
Cc: FOI UNIT; Ann Kissane; Brendan O'Reilly; Marie Gibney; Sinéad O'Reilly
Subject: RE: FOI request Elaine Edwards

Hi Dave, Ann,

We will get on to this asap.
Given the nature of the request (esp. point 3), this is likely to take some time.

Regards,

Colm.

From: Dave Hanley
Sent: 17 February 2009 09:49
To: Colm Ó Conaill; Aoife McQuillan
Cc: FOI UNIT
Subject: FW: FOI request Elaine Edwards

I will ask Ann Kissane to coordinate a reply. Please arrange for the necessary records to be compiled and sent to Ann asap.

Thanks

Dave

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 13 February 2009 18:01
To: Colm Ó Conaill; Aoife McQuillan
Cc: Dave Hanley
Subject: FOI request Elaine Edwards

Colm/Aoife,

I have attached an FOI request received today asking for records in relation to the Minister and Minister of State, I would appreciate if you would let me know who the decision-maker will be for this request and then I will be in a position to issue an acknowledgement to the requestor.

Kind Regards
Mary
Mary Rabbitte,
FOI Unit,
DCENR,
Elm House,
Earlsvale Rd.,
Cavan.
01 6782903

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 17 February 2009 10:12
To: Ann Kissane
Subject: FW: FOI request Elaine Edwards
Attachments: Elaine Edwards.pdf
Tracking: Recipient Read
Ann Kissane Read: 17/02/2009 10:12

Hi Ann,

Request attached as requested.

Regards
Mary

From: Dave Hanley
Sent: 17 February 2009 09:49
To: Colm Ó Conaill; Aoife McQuillan
Cc: FOI UNIT
Subject: FW: FOI request Elaine Edwards

I will ask Ann Kissane to coordinate a reply. Please arrange for the necessary records to be compiled and sent to Ann asap.

Thanks

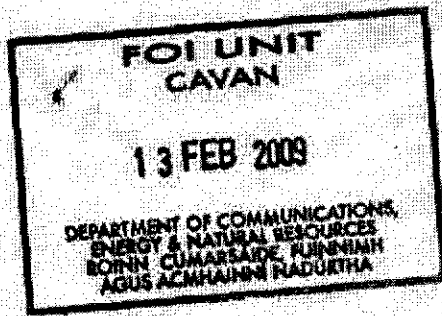
Dave

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 13 February 2009 18:01
To: Colm Ó Conaill; Aoife McQuillan
Cc: Dave Hanley
Subject: FOI request Elaine Edwards

Colm/Aoife,

I have attached an FOI request received today asking for records in relation to the Minister and Minister of State, I would appreciate if you would let me know who the decision-maker will be for this request and then I will be in a position to issue an acknowledgement to the requestor.

Kind Regards
Mary
Mary Rabbitte,
FOI Unit,
DCENR,
Elm House,
Earlsvale Rd.,
Cavan.
01 6782903



The Irish Times
24-28 Tara Street
Dublin 2

Wednesday, February 11th, 2009

Ms Mary Rabbitte
Freedom of Information section
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Elm House,
Earlsvale Road
Cavan

Re: Freedom of Information request

Dear Ms Rabbitte

I wish to make a request for the following records under the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Details of expenses incurred by or on behalf of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr Ryan, in the course of overseas trips made in an official capacity in 2008, including any background notes, invoices and back-up for accounting purposes.
2. Details of expenses incurred by or on behalf of the Minister(s) of State serving at the Department in the course of overseas trips made in an official capacity in 2008, including any background notes, invoices and back-up for accounting purposes.
3. Any expenses incurred by any special adviser/civil servant accompanying the Minister or Ministers of State on those engagements.

I would be glad to receive the records either on paper or on CD or other electronic form, whichever is most convenient.

I enclose a cheque for €15 in respect of the request fee.

You may contact me at 01-6758787 or at 087-8516312.

With thanks for your assistance,

Yours sincerely
Elaine Edwards

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI.UNIT@dcenr.ie
Sent: 17 February 2009 15:37
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: Inquire Alert

This is an alert to inform you that the following action occurred:

Ms Ann Kissane has just Accepted the role of DecisionMaker on this request: FOI/2009/7

Date Action Occurred:
17/02/2009 15:37:23

To visit the site, click here:
<http://inquire>

Regards,

Inquire Business Systems Team

This is an automated email. If you have any queries, please feel free to either reply to this email, or
contact the FOI Unit on 01 6782000.

Mary Rabbitte

From: Aoife McQuillan
Sent: 24 February 2009 16:06
To: Ann Kissane; Carmel Denning; Colm Ó Conaill
Cc: Marie-Louise Farrell; Mary Rabbitte
Subject: RE: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Thanks Ann,

I imagine it will be like last weeks request so!

Rgds
Aoife

From: Ann Kissane
Sent: 24 February 2009 16:04
To: Carmel Denning; Aoife McQuillan; Colm Ó Conaill
Cc: Marie-Louise Farrell; Mary Rabbitte
Subject: RE: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Folks

I was taking Carmel's interpretation but I take Aoife's point & have asked Mary Rabbitte to seek clarification from requester.

Regards

Ann

*Ann Kissane
Human Resources Division
Ext 2173*

From: Carmel Denning
Sent: 24 February 2009 15:56
To: Aoife McQuillan; Colm Ó Conaill
Cc: Marie-Louise Farrell; Ann Kissane
Subject: RE: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Aoife

I would suggest that this would be a very narrow definition of expenses. I would imagine that the requester is looking for the cost of each trip – flights, bike hire, hotel costs, car/limo hire etc. The FOI unit could seek clarification from the requester?

Carmel

Carmel Denning

*Accounts Section
Department of Communications, Energy
and Natural Resources
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
Co Cavan*

+353 1 678 2114
Fax +353 1 678 2137

From: Aoife McQuillan
Sent: 24 February 2009 15:49
To: Carmel Denning; Colm Ó Conaill
Cc: Marie-Louise Farrell; Ann Kissane
Subject: RE: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Thanks for your email Carmel,

In relation to this particular request I was seeking clarification as per the use of the phrase 'expenses'. In my view, this request is different to the one we worked on last week. As discussed with Colm, we both were of the opinion that 'expenses' would be as per the expenses tab on Transfare .

Any thoughts gratefully received and thanks for your assistance
Regards
Aoife

From: Carmel Denning
Sent: 24 February 2009 15:44
To: Colm Ó Conaill; Aoife McQuillan
Cc: Marie-Louise Farrell
Subject: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Colm, Aoife

You will have seen the FOI request from Elaine Edwards. Ann Kissane is the deciding officer and I understand she has been in touch with you about it.

As accounts branch will have to provide some (if not all) of the material for this request and in order to ensure that we are not duplicating work I would like to propose the following:

Minister's office and Minister of State's office to furnish details of all overseas trips made by the relevant Minister to Accounts branch. This should include which officers went with him, the dates of travel etc.

We can then extract information from Agresso and return it your office for certification.

If this proposal is acceptable to you please liaise with Marie-Louise Farrell.

If you have any queries Marie-Louise or I will be available to assist.

Regards
Carmel

Carmel Denning

*Accounts Section
Department of Communications, Energy
and Natural Resources
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
Co Cavan*

ph +353 1 678 2114
Fax +353 1 678 2137

Mary Rabbitte

From: Carmel Denning
Sent: 26 February 2009 15:24
To: Ann Kissane; Mary Rabbitte
Cc: Colm Ó Conaill; Aoife McQuillan
Subject: RE: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Apologies to all

Carmel Cosgrove contacted me yesterday to say that she had consulted another Department and that they were interpreting it as the cost of the trip and were including cost of flights, accommodation, car hire etc. I understand that no contact has been made to the requester.

Carmel

Carmel Denning

*Accounts Section
Department of Communications, Energy
and Natural Resources
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
Co Cavan*

*ph +353 1 678 2114
Fax +353 1 678 2137*

From: Ann Kissane
Sent: 26 February 2009 15:21
To: Mary Rabbitte
Cc: Colm Ó Conaill; Aoife McQuillan; Carmel Denning
Subject: FW: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Mary

Any update on this?

Regards

Ann

*Ann Kissane
Human Resources Division
Ext 2173*

From: Ann Kissane
Sent: 24 February 2009 16:04
To: Carmel Denning; Aoife McQuillan; Colm Ó Conaill
Cc: Marie-Louise Farrell; Mary Rabbitte
Subject: RE: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Folks

I was taking Carmel's interpretation but I take Aoife's point & have asked Mary Rabbitte to seek clarification

from requester.

Regards

Ann

*Ann Kissane
Human Resources Division
Ext 2173*

From: Carmel Denning
Sent: 24 February 2009 15:56
To: Aoife McQuillan; Colm Ó Conaill
Cc: Marie-Louise Farrell; Ann Kissane
Subject: RE: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Aoife

I would suggest that this would be a very narrow definition of expenses. I would imagine that the requester is looking for the cost of each trip – flights, bike hire, hotel costs, car/limo hire etc. The FOI unit could seek clarification from the requester?

Carmel

Carmel Denning

*Accounts Section
Department of Communications, Energy
and Natural Resources
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
Co Cavan*

*ph +353 1 678 2114
Fax +353 1 678 2137*

From: Aoife McQuillan
Sent: 24 February 2009 15:49
To: Carmel Denning; Colm Ó Conaill
Cc: Marie-Louise Farrell; Ann Kissane
Subject: RE: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

Thanks for your email Carmel,

In relation to this particular request I was seeking clarification as per the use of the phrase 'expenses'. In my view, this request is different to the one we worked on last week. As discussed with Colm, we both were of the opinion that 'expenses' would be as per the expenses tab on Transfare .

Any thoughts gratefully received and thanks for your assistance
Regards
Aoife

From: Carmel Denning
Sent: 24 February 2009 15:44
To: Colm Ó Conaill; Aoife McQuillan
Cc: Marie-Louise Farrell
Subject: FOI Request from Irish Times - Elaine Edwards

● Im, Aoife

You will have seen the FOI request from Elaine Edwards. Ann Kissane is the deciding officer and I understand she has been in touch with you about it.

As accounts branch will have to provide some (if not all) of the material for this request and in order to ensure that we are not duplicating work I would like to propose the following:

Minister's office and Minister of State's office to furnish details of all overseas trips made by the relevant Minister to Accounts branch. This should include which officers went with him, the dates of travel etc.

We can then extract information from Agresso and return it your office for certification.

If this proposal is acceptable to you please liaise with Marie-Louise Farrell.

If you have any queries Marie-Louise or I will be available to assist.

Regards
Carmel

Carmel Denning

*Accounts Section
Department of Communications, Energy
and Natural Resources
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
Co Cavan*

*ph +353 1 678 2114
Fax +353 1 678 2137*

Mary Rabbitte

From: Elaine Edwards [eedwards@irishtimes.com]
Sent: 27 February 2009 12:36
To: Ann Kissane
Subject: FOI

Hello Ann,

With regard to our conversation earlier:

I confirm I am happy to accept the information sought in my FOI request dated February 11th in table or spreadsheet form, via email.

There is no need to copy every receipt at present, once the information clearly outlines what trips were involved, with a breakdown of flights/subsistence etc.

Thanks for your help,
Regards,
Elaine Edwards

Mary Rabbitte

From: Ann Kissane
Sent: 09 March 2009 13:14
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: RE: Updating weekly report

Hi Carmel

I am awaiting receipt of records in relation to FOI 7/2009 from Accounts Unit.

I have made a decision on FOI 4/2009 and a letter issued to the requester on 6 March requesting fee for photocopying before release of records.

Regards

Ann

*Ann Kissane
Human Resources Division
Ext 2173*

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 09 March 2009 12:00
To: Ann Kissane
Subject: Updating weekly report

Hi Ann

I am currently updating the FOI weekly report for MC & would appreciate if you could give me an update on the progress you are making with FOI/2009/4 & FOI/2009/7

Kind Regards,

Carmel Cosgrove

Dept of Communications, Energy
& Natural Resources

Freedom of Information Unit

Elm House

Cavan

Tel: 01 6782902

Fax: 01 6783057

<mailto:carmel.cosgrove@dcenr.ie>



Record No 3

 Mary Rabbitte

From: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Sent: 28 July 2009 18:05
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: RE: 2 FOI Requests from Fiachra O Cionnaith

I will act as decision maker on both.

Brian


From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 28 July 2009 12:38
To: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: 2 FOI Requests from Fiachra O Cionnaith

Hi Brian

Please see attached FOI requests which we received this morning; I believe both relate to your area. I would appreciate if you could nominate a decision maker to deal with the requests.

Kind regards,

Carmel Cosgrove
FOI Unit
Department of Communications,
Energy & Natural Resources
Elm House
Cavan

 01 678 2902

 **Mary Rabbitte**

From: Frank.O'Brien
Sent: 28 July 2009 12:23
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: RE: New FOI Requests

Thanks Carmel and welcome back


Yes is the answer. Refer both to Brian and ask him to nominate the decision maker for both.

Frank

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 28 July 2009 11:50
To: Frank.O'Brien
Subject: New FOI Requests

Hi Frank
We received both requests this morning. Shall I forward both to Brian Carroll to deal with?

Thanks,
Carmel Cosgrove
FOI Unit
Department of Communications,
Energy & Natural Resources
Elm House
Cavan

 01 678 2902

Mary Rabbitte

From: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
To: FOI UNIT
Sent: 30 July 2009 16:32
Subject: Read: 2 FOI Requests from Fiachra O Cionnaith

Your message

To: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: 2 FOI Requests from Fiachra O Cionnaith
Sent: 30/07/2009 16:32

was read on 30/07/2009 16:32.

Mary Rabbitte

From: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Sent: 20 August 2009 13:00
To: Mary Rabbitte; Carmel Cosgrove; Pat Smyth; John Donohoe; Tom O'Brien
Subject: FW: FW: FOIs 2009/28 and 2009/27

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Fiachra O Cionnaith [mailto:fiachra.ocionnaith@examiner.ie]
Sent: 20 August 2009 12:23
To: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: Re: FW: FOIs 2009/28 and 2009/27

Hi Brian, that sounds good, thanks

Fiachra

Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance wrote:

>
>
>
>
>
>

> -----

> *From:* Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
> *Sent:* 20 August 2009 12:00
> *To:* 'fiachra.oci'
> *Subject:* FOIs 2009/28 and 2009/27

>
>
>

> Fiachra

>
>
>

> In relation to the two above listed FOIs, can you confirm your
> agreement to the information being supplied on September 1?

>
>
>

> Your co-operation is much appreciated.

>
>
>

> Thanks and regards

>
>
>

> Brian Carroll

>
>
>

> Principal Officer
> Corporate Finance and Planning

>

--
Fiachra Ó Cionnaith
Examiner News Reporter
City Quarter
Lapps Quay
Cork

Mobile 087 4137575

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Record No 4

Clara Rabbitte

From: Ciara Bates
Sent: 12 August 2009 14:52
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: RE: New FOI Request from Luke Byrne - (Noel Dempsey)

Hi Carmel,

I would be reluctant to accept this request given that the records being sought in the FOI would not be held by this section. It would seem to be more relevant to the Finance Division.

Furthermore, we currently have two FOI requests assigned to this Division and do not have the resources to undertake a third particularly in the circumstances where the request is not relevant to our remit.

Kind regards,


Ciara

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 11 August 2009 12:33
To: Ciara Bates
Subject: New FOI Request from Luke Byrne - (Noel Dempsey)

Hi Ciara,
Would you mind dealing with the email below in Dave's absence?

Kind Regards,

Carmel Cosgrove
FOI Unit
Department of Communications,
Energy & Natural Resources
Elm House
Cavan


 01 678 2902

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 11 August 2009 12:30
To: Dave Hanley
Subject: New FOI Request from Luke Byrne - (Noel Dempsey)

Hi Dave
We received the attached FOI request this morning in the FOI unit. Can you please confirm that this is relevant to your area, and if so, I would appreciate if you could nominate a decision maker to deal with the request.

Kind Regards,

Carmel Cosgrove
FOI Unit
Department of Communications,
Energy & Natural Resources
Elm House
Cavan

 01 678 2902

Mary Rabbitte

From: Dave Hanley
Sent: 11 August 2009 12:30
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: Out of Office AutoReply: New FOI Request from Luke Byrne - (Noel Dempsey)

I am away from the Office on annual leave until September 1st. During that time I will not be accessing emails. Please also note that I am no longer Personnel Officer - all official queries should be sent to Ciara Bates AP Personnel Division. Patricia Cronin will take over as Personnel Officer on September 1st.

Mary Rabbitte

From: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie
Sent: 13 August 2009 12:33
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: Fol former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High

Dear Mary,

As per our conversation today.

I confirm that I amend my request for minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses and that the date period is now Jan 2007 - June 2007.

Kind Regards

Luke Byrne,
Reporter,
The Irish Mail on Sunday
(00353) (0) 1 637-5847
(00353) (0) 86-165-9603
Fax: (00353) (0) 1 637 5880
Out of office hours and Sunday - Monday email: byrneluke@gmail.com



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Mary Rabbitte

From: John Donohoe
To: FOI UNIT
Sent: 14 August 2009 10:36
Subject: Read: New FOI Request from Luke Byrne - (Noel Dempsey)

Your message

To: John Donohoe
Subject: New FOI Request from Luke Byrne - (Noel Dempsey)
Sent: 14/08/2009 10:32

was read on 14/08/2009 10:36.

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 14 August 2009 15:23
To: John Donohoe
Cc: Carmel Cosgrove
Subject: FW: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High
Attachments: Luke Byrne - Noel Dempsey.pdf

Tracking:

Recipient	Read
John Donohoe	Read: 14/08/2009 15:39
Carmel Cosgrove	

Hi John,

Email below from Luke Byrne clarifying the attached request we discussed.

Regards
 Mary

From: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie [mailto:luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie]
Sent: 13 August 2009 12:33
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High

Dear Mary,

As per our conversation today.

I confirm that I amend my request for minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses and that the date period is now Jan 2007 - June 2007.

Kind Regards

Luke Byrne,
 Reporter,
 The Irish Mail on Sunday
 (00353) (0) 1 637-5847
 (00353) (0) 86-165-9603
 Fax: (00353) (0) 1 637 5880
 Out of office hours and Sunday - Monday email: byrneluke@gmail.com



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Lane, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Registered No 347441 Ireland.

Mary Rabbitte

From: John Donohoe
To: FOI UNIT
Sent: 14 August 2009 15:39
Subject: Read: FW: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.

Your message

To: John Donohoe
Cc: Carmel Cosgrove
Subject: FW: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Sent: 14/08/2009 15:23

was read on 14/08/2009 15:39.


Mary Rabbitte

From: Carmel Cosgrove
Sent: 18 August 2009 15:43
To: Mary Rabbitte
Subject: FW: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red
Attachments: Luke Byrne - Noel Dempsey.pdf

From: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Sent: 18 August 2009 15:42
To: Colm Ó Conaill; Marie Gibney; Sinéad O'Reilly
Cc: Pat Smyth; Carmel Cosgrove
Subject: FW: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High

Colleagues

As discussed, please see FOI request from Luke Byrne as amended by his e-mail of 13 August to the FOI Unit. Responsibility for gathering all material related to this request rests with the Minister's Office, including requesting material from CSD, Accounts, Finance Unit, Department of Defence etc. as appropriate. Once all the material is gathered, it should be forwarded to Pat Smyth, Finance Unit who will then act as decision maker. Please liaise directly with Pat on this matter. Material will need to be made available ASAP to allow sufficient time for it to be considered and a response drafted by the FOI deadline.

Carmel

Please designate Pat Smyth the decision maker on this FOI request.

Thanks
Brian

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 18 August 2009 15:30
To: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Cc: Pat Smyth; Brendan O'Reilly
Subject: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High

Hi Brian,
Email below from Luke Byrne clarifying the attached request we discussed.

Regards,

Carmel Cosgrove
 FOI Unit
 Department of Communications,
 Energy & Natural Resources
 Elm House
 Cavan



01 678 2902

From: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie [mailto:luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie]
Sent: 13 August 2009 12:33
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High

Dear Mary,

As per our conversation today.

I confirm that I amend my request for minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses and that the date period is now Jan 2007 - June 2007.

Kind Regards

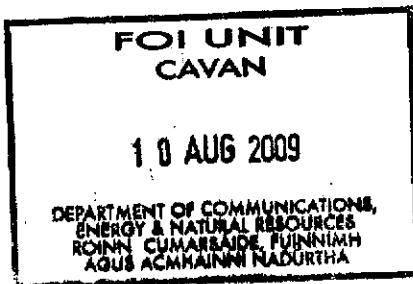
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Reporter,
The Irish Mail on Sunday
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(00353) (0) 86-165-9603
Fax: (00353) (0) 1 637 5880
Out of office hours and Sunday - Monday email: byrneluke@gmail.com



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

05/08/2009

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 cost and full details of all foreign trips taken by Minister Noel Dempsey between January 2007 and his termination date in June 2008. Included should be names and costs of hotels as well as class, cost, destination and passenger numbers of flights and lists of people accompanying the minister on each of the trips, including the relationship of that person to the minister.

I request copies of all receipts submitted by the minister to the department, in claiming expenses for the foreign trips.*

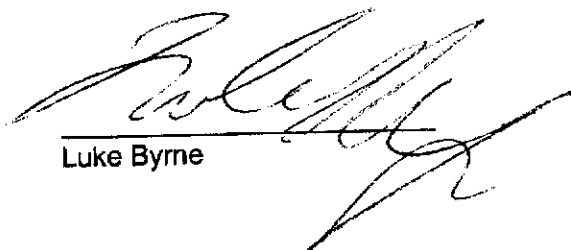
*Note: Alternatively, if preferable to the department, copies of original receipts do not have to be provided if other detailed records of expense claims can be provided. However these details must be as specific as original receipts. Eg of such expense would include suit hire, car hire, meals etc...

In cases where no receipt has been provided for an expense claim, a full description of the expense claim should be given. For example if the minister claimed for a gratuity or a tip, given by the minister to a hotel porter etc.

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

Mary Rabbitte

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 18 August 2009 15:26
To: Carmel Cosgrove
Subject: FW: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High
Attachments: Luke Byrne - Noel Dempsey.pdf

From: FOI UNIT
Sent: 14 August 2009 15:23
To: John Donohoe
Cc: Carmel Cosgrove
Subject: FW: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High

Hi John,

Email below from Luke Byrne clarifying the attached request we discussed.

Regards
Mary

From: luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie [mailto:luke.byrne@mailonsunday.ie]
Sent: 13 August 2009 12:33
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Importance: High

Dear Mary,

As per our conversation today.

I confirm that I amend my request for minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses and that the date period is now Jan 2007 - June 2007.

Kind Regards

Luke Byrne,
Reporter,
The Irish Mail on Sunday
(00353) (0) 1 637-5847
(00353) (0) 86-165-9603
Fax: (00353) (0) 1 637 5880
Out of office hours and Sunday - Monday email: byrneluke@gmail.com



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Mary Rabbitte

From: Pat Smyth
To: FOI UNIT
Sent: 18 August 2009 15:44
Subject: Read: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.

Your message

To: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Cc: Pat Smyth; Brendan O'Reilly
Subject: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Sent: 18/08/2009 15:30

was read on 18/08/2009 15:44.

Mary Rabbitte

From: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
To: FOI UNIT
Sent: 18 August 2009 15:31
Subject: Read: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.

Your message

To: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Cc: Pat Smyth; Brendan O'Reilly
Subject: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Sent: 18/08/2009 15:30

was read on 18/08/2009 15:31.

Mary Rabbitte

From: Brendan O'Reilly
To: FOI UNIT
Sent: 01 September 2009 09:53
Subject: Read: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.

Your message

To: Brian Carroll ,T- Corporate Finance
Cc: Pat Smyth; Brendan O'Reilly
Subject: FoI former minister Noel Dempsey's foreign expenses amendment.
Sent: 18/08/2009 15:30

was read on 01/09/2009 09:53.

Mary Rabbitte

From: Pat Smyth
Sent: 18 September 2009 14:58
To: Carmel Cosgrove
Cc: Mary Rabbitte
Subject: FOI/2009/30
Importance: High
Attachments: LByrne decision letter.doc; Schedule of records - Luke Byrne request.doc

Carmel,

Letter and schedule which issued to Mr Luke Byrne are attached. I'll drop the file into you now.

Regards,

Pat S.

Pat Smyth
Finance Unit
Corporate Finance & Planning Division
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan

Tel: 01 6782071
Fax: 01 6783058
E-mail: pat.smyth@dcecr.gov.ie

11 September 2009

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

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2009/30

Dear Mr. Byrne,

I refer to your request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, received in the Department on 10th August and amended in your e-mail of 13th August, concerning details of all foreign trips taken by Minister Noel Dempsey, TD between January 2007 and his termination date in June 2007.

I have made a final decision to grant your request and all relevant documents are in the attached schedule, (records 9 and 11 are blacked out in parts as the information does not come under the scope of your request). The table at the end of this letter summarises your request. 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.

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

<u>Foreign Trips undertaken</u> →	Cardiff – 04 February 2007	Brussels – 14/15 February 2007	Houston, San Antonio and San Francisco – 13/23 March 2007
<u>Details requested</u> ↓			
Name of hotel	N/A	Conrad	Westin, St. Regis, Hyatt Regency and Apple Farm Inn
Cost of hotel	N/A	€114.50	€9,473.18
Class of flight	Government Jet	Government Jet	Business, First and Economy
Cost of flight	No record	No record	€41,827.11
Destination	Cardiff	Brussels	Various in USA
Passenger numbers	Minister travelled with Taoiseach, other Ministers and officials from other Departments. (No one from Minister's Office or Department accompanied Minister)	Minister Dempsey, Minister's Private Secretary, Minister's Press Advisor and 4 officials from the Department	Minister Dempsey, Minister Dempsey's wife, Minister's Press Advisor and 2 officials from the Department
People accompanying Minister	N/A	See above	See above
Relationship of above to Minister	N/A	See above	See above
Copies of receipts or expense claims from Minister	Yes	Yes	Yes

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	E-mail from Minister's Office listing the trips made by Minister Noel Dempsey, TD, in the period January to June 2007	FIN 4/5/1	1			Grant		
2	Details of the trips to Cardiff and Brussels	FIN 4/5/1	1			Grant		
3	Minister Dempsey's subsistence claim in respect of his trip to Cardiff	FIN 4/5/1	1			Grant		
4	Minister Dempsey's subsistence claim in respect of his trip to Brussels	FIN 4/5/1	1			Grant		
5	Details of car hire costs in relation to Minister Dempsey's trip to Brussels	FIN 4/5/1	3			Grant		
6	Details of hotel costs in relation to Minister Dempsey's trip to Brussels	FIN 4/5/1	4			Grant		
7	Details of and costs involved in trip to the USA	FIN 4/5/1	4			Grant		

8	Details of Subsistence and expenses costs in relation to the trip to the USA	FIN 4/5/1	1				Grant		
9	Details of advances in relation to the trip to the USA	FIN 4/5/1	2				Part grant	The blacked out part on the first page of this record is not relevant to the time frame of this request	
10	Details of costs incurred at The Westin Hotel, San Francisco	FIN 4/5/1	23				Grant		
11	Details of costs incurred at The St. Regis Hotel, Houston	FIN 4/5/1	12				Part grant	The blacked out parts on pages 8, 9 and 10 of this record are not relevant to this request	
12	Details of costs incurred at The Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Antonio and the Apple Farm Inn, California	FIN 4/5/1	12				Grant		