



04/08/2005

Mr Colm Rapple

Dublin
Co.Dublin
Ireland

FOI/0053/2005

Dear Mr Rapple,

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 comparative study of fiscal terms for offshore exploration which was undertaken by Mr. David Fox.

You requested

- a copy of a comparative study of fiscal terms for offshore exploration;
- full details of the terms of reference and all correspondence on the report including all internal and external comments on its findings;
- information on the cost of the report and on Mr. David Fox's current and past employment status with the Department.

Your request has been granted and I attach all relevant information as follows:

- i. a copy of report 'Fiscal Terms Comparison' by Mr. Fox
- ii. memorandum from the Petroleum Affairs Division to Mr Fox, dated 14th January 2003
- iii. memorandum from Mr Fox to the Petroleum Affairs Division, dated 15th January 2003

The work of the report was undertaken as part of Mr. Fox's ongoing contract with the Department and was not invoiced separately. Mr. Fox has been engaged as a part-time consultant petroleum engineer by the Department since October 2000. His appointment followed a tendering process.

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 Mr. John Wynne, FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2. 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 and a reduced fee of €25.00 applies if you are covered by a Medical Card.

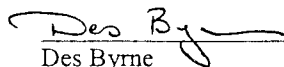
If claiming a reduced application fee, the request must also be accompanied by

- 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 "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,



Des Byrne
Petroleum Affairs Division

08/07/2005

Mr Colm Rapple

Co.Dublin
Ireland

FOI/0053/2005

Dear Mr Rapple,

I refer to the Freedom of Information request received in this office on 08/07/2005 along with the associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Mr Des Byrne, Petroleum Affairs Division, Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Co Dublin. He can be contacted at 6782693.

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 08/08/2005.

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. John Wynne, FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, Co Dublin. 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, Marine & 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,

Liam Murphy
FOI Unit

Co. Dublin
Ireland

3rd July 2005

FOI Unit,
Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2,

A Cara

FOI request

In 2003 the Minister commissioned an assessment of the offshore licencing terms. It was undertaken by David Fox. It has never been published and I have been refused a copy of it although Mr Fox did, I believe, provide an abstract for a trade magazine which I have seen. I am making a formal request for the following information:

- ❑ A copy of Mr Fox's report
- ❑ Full details of the terms of reference and all correspondence on the report including all internal and external comments on its findings.
- ❑ Information on the cost of the report and on Mr Fox's current and past employment status with the Department.

I would be grateful for an early decision since I understand that the Minister intends shortly to issue further licences to offshore areas on the basis of the current licencing terms. I believe that the information in this report is crucial to any meaningful consideration of the matter.

I enclose a cheque for €15 which I believe is the required fee.

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Colm Rapple