

**REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO RECORDS UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, 1997**

Please address this request to relevant FOI Contact

Please use **BLOCK** letters

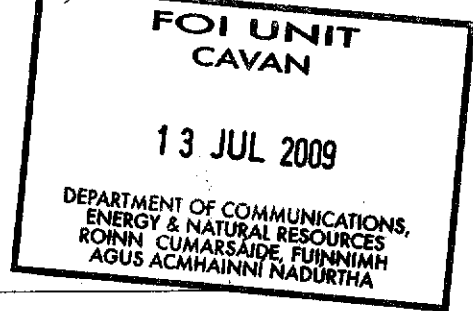
Details of Applicant

Surname: O' Dowd TD

First Name: Fergus

Postal Address: Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin
2.

(PP. Paul O'Brien)



Telephone Number(s)

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Home : _____

Date FOI request Received: _____

Business: 618 3078

Identity Verified: _____

Mobile: (6184404)

Consent Confirmed: _____

Personal Information

My preferred form of access is: *(please tick as appropriate)*

to receive copies of the record by post
other – please specify _____

Details of Request

In accordance with **Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Act**, I request access to records which are: *(please tick as appropriate)*

Personal
Non-personal

*In the space provided below, please describe the records as fully as you can. If you are requesting **Personal Information**, please state precisely, in whose name those*

records are held. You will not normally be given access to personal information of another person unless you have obtained the written consent of that person.

I request the following records:

- All records concerning the selection of towns to be included in MANS Phase II.
- Any records, including communications and briefings, within the Department that evaluated the selection of towns to be included in MANS Phase II.

Please sign here: Fergus O Dowd Date: 10/07/09



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

15/07/2009

Mr Fergus O'Dowd
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2,

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2009/21

Dear Mr O'Dowd,

I refer to your FOI request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, received in this office on 13/07/2009 requesting all records concerning the selection of towns to be included in MANS Phase II. The application was received along with the associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Ms Joanne McCormack, Communications Development Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2. Joanne can be contacted on 01 6782151

You can expect to receive your decision by the 10/08/2009.

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.

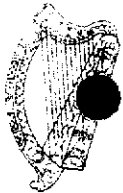
Please note the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources has a policy of posting a summary of non-personal requests and decisions on the Departments website for reference purposes.

Yours sincerely,


Carmel Cosgrove

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

Phone: 01 6782902



An Roinn Cumarsáide,
Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha
Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Department of Communications,
Energy and Natural Resources,
Dublin 2.

20/07/2009

Mr Fergus O'Dowd

Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2,
Dublin,
Ireland

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2009/21

Dear Mr O'Dowd,

I refer to your FOI request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, received in this office on 13/07/2009 in relation to Requestign all records concerning the selection of towns to be included in MANS Phase II.

In considering your request it has become necessary to engage in third party consultations under Section 29 of the Acts (copy attached). The Acts provide for an extension to the time limit for such consultations to be undertaken.

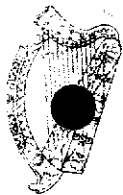
This extension means that you can now expect to receive your decision by the 10/08/2009.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne McCormack
Communications Division

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Elm House, Earlsvale Rd
Cavan
Co Cavan

Phone: 016782151



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

Department of Communications,
Energy and Natural Resources,
Dublin 2.

11/08/2009

Mr Fergus O'Dowd

Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2,
Dublin,
Ireland

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2009/21

Dear Mr O'Dowd,

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, concerning Requesting all records concerning the selection of towns to be included in MANS Phase II.

I have made a final decision to your request and I attach all relevant information with this letter. 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 have released all records with the exception of document 1 (per the attached Schedule of Records) as this document is a Memorandum for Government and is refused under Section 19(1)(a) of the Act;

"has been, or is proposed to be, submitted to the Government for their consideration by a Minister of the Government or the Attorney General and was created for that purpose."

All other documents in relation to the request have been released. There are other documents which were considered when deciding to proceed with MANs Phase 2 which are already in the public domain and includes but is not limited to various Forfas reports on broadband, National Competitiveness Council (NCC) reports on broadband, Telecommunications Internet Federation (TIF) documents on broadband, Cross Departmental Team on Infrastructure and PPPs (the Telecommunications Working Group), The ACT Report of 1998, the Advisory Committee on InfoComms in February 2002 and Getting Ireland Online.

Document 2 was prepared as an initial discussion paper and as an input to a debate on options for further development of broadband infrastructure in the Department. The paper was not developed any further.

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.

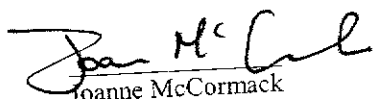
If claiming a reduced application fee, the request must also be accompanied by

- 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,



Joanne McCormack
Communications (Development) Division

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Elm House, Earlsvale Rd
Cavan
Co Cavan

Phone: 016782151

FOI Request Reference: RequestID: 425

Schedule of Records: Summary of Decision Making

Requesting all records concerning the selection of towns to be included in MANS Phase II

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	November 2003 Memorandum for the Government on a National Strategy on Broadband Communications	MAN 2/6/1 MAN second phase 41 towns - Govt Decision 18th Nov 2003	1-27		Refuse as Government Memos excluded	Refuse	Section 19 Matters before Government	
2	12/07/04 Broadband to smaller towns - Issues and Options	MAN 2/6/1	1-10		3 rd Party consultation	Grant		
3	No date Towns not covered by DSL or MANS	MAN 2/6/1	1-2			Grant		
4	No date Census Areas 2002	MAN 2/6/1	1-2		In public domain	Grant		
5	16/01/04 Email re next phase of Regional Metropolitan Area Network Programme	MAN 2/6/1	1-5			Grant		
6	No date List of 48 towns	MAN 2/6/1	1			Grant		
7	13/12/03 Towns to be covered in Phases II and III	G:\Administration\Old Structure\COMMS_DEV\DOC \TDEV\Broadband Ireland	1-2			Grant		
8	12/08/03 Towns which eircom are not covering for DSL/MANS	G:\Administration\Old Structure\COMMS_DEV\DOC \TDEV\Broadband Ireland	1-3			Grant		

9	2005_05 DCMNR Projects Area	G:\Metropolitan Area Networks\Phase 2\General Information\DCMNR_Management Files	1-24				Grant	
10	2003_04 Towns population	G:\Metropolitan Area Networks\Phase 2\General Information\DCMNR_Management Files	1-8				Grant	
11	03/11/03 Prioritized according to Agency Recommendations	G:\Administration\Old Structure\COMMS_DEV\DOC\TDEV\Broadband Ireland	1-4				Grant	
12	03/11/03 Prioritized according to Population	G:\Administration\Old Structure\COMMS_DEV\DOC\TDEV\Broadband Ireland	1-3				Grant	
13	15/01/04 Next phase of Regional MAN Programme	G:\Administration\Old Structure\COMMS_DEV\DOC\TDEV\Broadband Ireland	1-5				Grant	
14	03/10/03 Forfas Priority 1,2 and 3 towns	G:\Administration\Old Structure\COMMS_DEV\DOC\TDEV\Broadband Ireland	1-4				Grant	
15	03/03 Analysys Study for DCMNR on the economics of an independent Internet Service Provider (ISP) serving customers over a dark fibre MAN	G:\Metropolitan Area Networks\Review of Regional Broadband Programme August 2006	1-11				Grant	
16	04/05/05 Norcontel Evaluation of Applications for the Regional Broadband Programme Phase II	G:\Metropolitan Area Networks\Phase 2\Call Management\Norcontel Evaluations	1-69			3 rd Party consultation	Grant	
17	02/06/05 Norcontel Evaluation of Applications for the Regional Broadband Programme Phase II	G:\Metropolitan Area Networks\Phase 2\Call Management\Norcontel Evaluations	1-59			3 rd Party consultation	Grant	
18	03/12/04 Norcontel Evaluation of	G:\Metropolitan Area	1-85			3 rd Party	Grant	

	Applications for the Regional Broadband Programme Phase II	Networks\Phase 2\Call Management\Norcontel Evaluations			consultation		
19	03/05 Norcontel Evaluation of Applications for the Regional Broadband Programme Phase II	G:\Metropolitan Area Networks\Phase 2\Call Management\Norcontel Evaluations	1-52		3 rd Party consultation	Grant	
20							

DCMNR

Broadband to smaller towns

Issues and options

All information provided in this report is Commercially Sensitive and Confidential. Its contents are intended for use by the DCMNR and may not be disclosed to any other party without the written consent of Norcontel (Ireland) Ltd.



NORCONTEL
Telecommunications Consultancy

12th July 2004

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Purpose of document	Norcontel Standard Template
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1. BROADBAND TO SMALLER TOWNS ISSUES AND OPTIONS

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This paper aims to define the objectives of the Broadband to Smaller Towns programme and to briefly review possible implementation strategies, in order to obtain feedback from the Department as to the preferred development direction.

1.2 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The programme has two objectives:

- To develop broadband infrastructure addressing the requirements of corporate businesses, network operators and large organisations in the identified towns, supporting both inward investment and indigenous companies.
- To directly deliver broadband services aimed at the needs of SME users in the identified towns. Residential customers would also be served.

The first objective is very similar to the aims of the existing Metropolitan Area Network projects in the first 25 towns. The second objective is new and targets an area heretofore exclusively the domain of private companies.

1.3 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE OPTIONS

Given the two separate but overlapping objectives of the programme, it is proposed to address both of these through two distinct programme elements A and B.

Element A would consist of basic telecommunications infrastructure such as duct, fibre, collocation centres, etc., and would address the needs of network operators, business parks and large businesses.

Programme Element B would consist of the necessary network and customer equipment to immediately deliver broadband service to SME customers. This element may be built on top of basic infrastructure where possible.

The differing nature of the two elements should be taken into account in project funding. Programme element A is more long term, and will develop more value retaining infrastructure, while Element B will provide immediate market impact and is likely to have a higher public profile.

As element A will be aimed at a more long-term investment, it is proposed that greater funding allocation be given to this element.

2. PROGRAMME ELEMENT A – BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1 OBJECTIVE

This programme element would consist of the basic telecommunications infrastructure aimed at providing network operators and large users with the type of facilities they require to cost effectively build their public and private networks. It would be very similar in nature to the type of infrastructure used in the 25 existing metropolitan area networks and would consist of the following elements:

- Duct routes
- Fibre cable
- Duct for customer connection
- Collocation centre

Only fibre can support the needs of large users in the long term as its bandwidth capabilities are practically unlimited.

While the economics of deploying fibre in the smaller towns remains to be seen, it is not necessarily uneconomic, given the generally shorter routes involved and optimism that civil works' unit costs will be significantly lower than in city projects.

Modification for smaller towns

The smaller towns included in this call have a range of requirements which are more extensive than that of the cities and towns looked at in previous calls. They are likely to require backhaul links to connect with backbone operators, they may also need radio infrastructure to support Wimax and other broadband wireless operators. These issues are considered below.

Backhaul Interconnection

Smaller towns are characterised by limited choice of backbone network operators. While Eircom will have some type of backbone network in all towns, based on fibre, radio link or copper, this is likely to be expensive and act as a barrier to entry to any operator trying to offer services, whether they are using wireless, DSL, fibre or any other technology.

Hence there will be a requirement for backhaul links in some of the towns, linking a collocation centre into the backbone network of say Esat-BT or ESB-Telecom, which are likely to be a distance from the town in some cases.

There may also be a requirement to install backhaul links in a redundant configuration to provide the necessary resilience.

Radio Infrastructure

In addition to fibre it is possible that smaller towns would be a potential target for broadband wireless operators such as Irish Broadband or LEAP¹, for the deployment of WLAN, Wimax or other broadband fixed wireless radio systems.

These companies may be discouraged from offering services in these towns by a number of barriers to entry. These barriers include: the difficulty and cost of obtaining suitable high sites and masts needed to deploy cell sites, difficulties in obtaining cell sites on buildings and

¹ The list of broadband wireless operators includes: Budget Wireless, Chorus, Digiweb, LEAP, Irish Broadband, Last Mile Wireless, Net2Cell and Real Broadband.

structures around the towns and the cost and difficulty of developing backhaul and backbone interconnectivity.

To address these issues, especially in towns that would have an obvious high cell site location (the equivalent of Three Rock Mountain in Dublin) the list of infrastructure types could be extended. In addition to conventional masts and building rooftops, the use of street lighting and other public structures for cell sites should also be considered by local authorities.

Cell sites and masts could also be provided on an open access basis. The objective would be to make it as simple as possible for wireless operators to start offering services and to remove from them the burden of capital costs, risk and delay normally associated with site procurement and development.

Radio links

In addition to supporting the radio infrastructure of wireless operators the Local authorities may wish to deploy their own point to point radio links, in order to connect larger customers where the deployment of fibre would be inappropriate. For example where there would only be a limited catchment along the route.

Typical radio links would be SDH STM-1 or higher bandwidths, although lower bit-rate system could be used in certain circumstances.

Additional infrastructure types for smaller towns

Hence it is proposed to add to the list of supported infrastructure the following types:

- Backhaul links
- Radio links to large customers.
- High Cell sites
- Masts
- Cell sites on local authority buildings
- Cell sites on Street lighting poles and similar structures.
- Ancillary services for the above elements, eg. power, equipment cabins etc.
- Cable poles

3. PROGRAMME ELEMENT B –BROADBAND SERVICES

3.1 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this element is the direct provision of broadband service to SME customers in the smaller towns. It is assumed that these customers will be satisfied with, as a minimum, asymmetrical services with a down stream bandwidth of 500kbit/s to 2Mbit/s, in line with the current DSL services offered in the cities by Eircom, Esat-BT and others.

It should be assumed that Eircom DSL service will be provided in all towns in competition with any local authority provided broadband service.

Satellite is available in these towns, but as in the rest of Europe has so far not proved popular with customers.

Appropriate Technology for Programme Element B

An initial review of possible broadband technologies that could be deployed by Local Authorities in this context was conducted by Norcontel. The following technologies were considered:

- DSL
- VDSL
- Cable TV
- Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN)
- Wimax
- Fibre to the home or small business
- Satellite
- Free Space Optics
- Digital TV
- 3G
- MMDS
- Powerline Carrier.

Of the technologies reviewed by Norcontel only the following currently seem to have the potential for sustainable development in this context:

1. DSL
2. Wimax - when the technology is commercially proven 2005/2006
3. In addition WLAN and Satellite could be considered.

Of these only DSL will immediately meet the current broadband requirements of SMEs and residential customers in smaller towns.

As yet there is no clear international model for broadband service delivery by Local Authorities to residential and SME customers in smaller towns. While WLAN based networks are being deployed, sometimes on a trial basis through local government projects, or often by enthusiastic groups or individuals; as yet there is no proven way for them to be deployed in an integrated and sustainable manner by local authorities.

In order for the programme to succeed in delivering broadband services to residential and SME users in these towns a new approach is needed.

3.2 PROGRAMME B - STRUCTURE

The delivery of broadband service to SME customer is a mass market business, and uniformity of technology, homogeneity of network architecture and economy of scale will all be critical to making a business case in the smaller towns, even where government funding is available.

As a result it will not be viable for each local authority to design a specific solution for their area. Nor would it be feasible for the local authorities to operate and maintain such complex network equipment.

Hence it is recommended that the Department of Communications organise a competitive call for network operators or suppliers to build and operate broadband service in all relevant towns using a single technology and to provide a management and administration service.

The rest of this section briefly looks at the two candidate technologies Wimax and DSL and considers some of their advantages and disadvantages.

3.3 WIMAX ISSUES

Wimax is being developed to specifically address the limitations of WLAN as a platform for public access to broadband.

Pros

- Designed to work outdoors, as a public access network to users who are indoors.
- Bit rate to users possibly 5-10Mbit/s
- Seems particularly suitable for smaller towns
- Would provide technical diversity compared to DSL
- Several interested operators

Cons

- Will not be proven before 2005/2006
- Would require a technology trial.
- Not clear yet how it will technically compare to DSL,
- May be vulnerable to DSL competition from Eircom

3.4 DSL ISSUES

As a broadband technology DSL is nearly ideal, in this context. It provides exactly what SMEs currently want from a broadband service and equipment costs are now low. It requires no planning or site visits to a customer is required. Equipment delivery and installation costs are also very low, with self-installation common.

Unlike other technologies there is little risk that DSL once installed will prove unreliable or fail to meet customer's expectations. There is little risk of overestimating the market for the service. Both the technology and its market are highly proven.

There are two possible ways for local authorities to enter the DSL market, either through DSL resale or through local loop unbundling and collocation.

DSL resale would not actually develop any new infrastructure, as it would only be available in areas already served by Eircom and the other resellers such as Esat-BT, UTV etc. The

injection of government funds into this market is likely to distort it, and could damage companies currently trying to compete. At first sight this strategy would appear to be of limited potential.

A potentially more viable and interesting new strategy would be to encourage the Local Authorities to offer DSL services using collocation arrangements and local loop unbundling. To achieve this goal the local authorities would need to contract with a network operator or supplier who would plan and implement the DSL network on their behalf.

The contracted network operator would be responsible for the onerous task of negotiating collocation with Eircom and the more straightforward issue of installing and operating the equipment. The offering of service could be undertaken by the network operator in its own name or possibly by the Management Services Entity. Wholesale service could also be made available to other operators for resale, further increasing competition.

The approach would be much less vulnerable to Eircom offering services in the same town, as the government funded DSL service would be technically and commercially the equivalent of Eircom's service. In fact the availability of two suppliers in the one town could help stimulate demand.

While the local authority DSL strategy may be a radical new approach, if the equipment was successfully installed and service delivered, it is more likely to be both a market and political success.

Pros

- Demonstrated world-wide market,
- Meets the current needs of SMEs
- The technology is relatively cheap, well proven and widely supported
- Installation is simple and cheap
- Pre-installation testing is possible
- Sufficiently reliable for SMEs
- Relatively easy to upgrade
- Less vulnerable to competition for Eircom's DSL.

Cons

- The cost and difficulty of installation in Eircom Exchanges and local loop unbundling is significant
- Not certain that Other Licenced Operators or suppliers would take on the challenge.

4. OPTIONS

It is proposed that:

General

1. The Department support Local Authority projects that provide in each town both:
 - Program Elements A - Basic broadband infrastructure,
 - and
 - Programme Element B - Broadband services.
2. That greater weight be given to the funding of Programme element A.
3. That implementation of elements A and B proceed independently,

Programme element A

4. Would be similar to the existing MANs project, but with some additional elements.
5. Backhaul links should also be supported as a basic infrastructure type where it is required in some of the towns.
6. That scope would include high sites and masts etc., to support radio based broadband systems.
7. That where local authorities develop radio infrastructure such as masts or high sites, that it be done, if possible, in conjunction with existing wireless operators such as Irish Broadband, LEAP etc.

Programme element B

8. The Department of communication arrange the separate procurement broadband services on a build and operate basis, form a network operator or a supplier.
9. The candidate technologies for this element are:
 - DSL
 - Wimax

Towns not covered for DSL or MAN's							
	Town	Population CSO 2002	N.S. S.		Town	Population CSO 2002	
1	Cavan	6098	Hub		4	Kilcock	2,740
2	Monaghan	5936	Hub		5		
3	Newbridge	16739			4	MuineBheag(Bagenalstown)	2,728
4	Carrigaline	11,191			6	Ballyshannon	2,715
5	Maynooth	10151			7		
6	Cobh	9,811			4	Clara	2,704
7	Skerries	9149			8		
8	Tramore	8,305			4	Kilrush	2,699
9	Midleton	7957			9		
10	Longford	7557			5	Charleville	2,685
11	Youghal	6,597			0		
12	Nenagh	6,454			5	Monasterevin	2,583
13	Trim	5894			1		
14	Kildare	5,694			5	Newtownmountkenedy	2,521
15	Laytown-Bettystown	5,597			2		
16	Carrick-on-Suir	5,586			5	Blessington	2,509
17	Dunboyne	5363			3		
18	Buncrana	5,271			5	Rathcoole	2499
19	Tipperary	4,964			4		
20	Fermoy	4,804			5	Lusk	2,456
21	Passage West	4,595			5	Tullow	2,417
22	Roscrea	4,578			6		
23	Edenderry	4,559			5	Templemore	2,270
24					7		
25					5	Boyle	2,205
26					8		
27					5	Kinsealy-Drinan	2,110
28					9		
29					6	Duleek	2,173
30					0		
31					6	Castleisland	2,162
32					1		
33					6	Athenry	2,154
34					2		
35					6	Blarney	2,146
36					3		
37					6	Claremorris	2,101
38					4		
39					6	Skibbereen	2,000
40					5		
41					6	Clones	1,947
42					6		
43					6	Enniskerry	1,904
44					7		

Delin

Table 5 (contd.) Population of Towns ordered by County and size, 1996 and 2002

Town	Electoral Division, etc. (* = part of ED)	Ref. No. of ED in Table 6	1996	2002			Percentage change 1996-2002
			Persons	Persons	Males	Females	
Galway County and City (contd.)							
Environs of Tuam	Total	-	2,140	2,843	1,395	1,448	32.9
	Tuam Rural*	215	2,110	2,789	1,365	1,424	32.2
	Killereerin*	204	30	54	30	24	80.0
Loughrea	Loughrea Urban	128	3,335	4,004	1,881	2,123	20.1
Athenry	Athenry*	101	1,614	2,154	1,043	1,111	33.5
Gort	Gort*	90	1,182	1,776	902	874	50.3
Oranmore	Total	-	1,410	1,692	839	853	20.0
	Oranmore*	60	1,126	1,446	710	736	28.4
	Clarinbridge*	49	264	218	112	106	-17.4
	Ballintemple*	42	20	28	17	11	40.0
Clifden	Clifden*	25	920	1,355	657	698	47.3
Portumna	Portumna*	175	984	1,235	618	617	25.5
Oughterard	Oughterard*	159	751	1,209	600	609	61.0
Moycullen	Total	-	601	883	433	450	46.9
	Tullokyne*	65	429	405	201	204	-5.6
	Moycullen*	59	172	478	232	246	177.9
Headford	Headford*	198	574	703	342	361	22.5
Mount Bellew	Mount Bellew*	146	547	667	353	314	21.9
Ballygar	Killieroran*	144	546	642	321	321	17.6
Carraroe	Crumpaun*	152	242	629	320	309	159.9
Dunmore	Total	-	445	594	279	315	33.5
	Dunmore South*	196	297	460	217	243	54.9
	Dunmore North*	195	126	109	50	59	-13.5
	Carrownagur*	187	22	25	12	13	13.6
Claregalway	Total	-	-	562	271	291	-
	Carnmore*	46	-	185	98	87	-
	Claregalway*	48	-	377	173	204	-
Glenamaddy	Glennamaddy*	72	394	457	220	237	16.0
Kinvara	Kinvarra*	97	432	447	220	227	3.5
Craughwell	Craughwell*	109	240	358	184	174	49.2
Eyrecourt	Total	-	337	354	162	192	5.0
	Eyrecourt*	168	330	349	160	189	5.8
	Meelick*	172	7	5	2	3	-28.6
Cloonboo	Annaghdown*	40	265	351	180	171	32.5
Killimor	Killimor*	169	256	345	179	166	34.8
Furbogh	Furbogh*	51	-	319	149	170	-
Monivea	Monivea*	211	298	300	151	149	0.7
Woodford	Woodford*	134	298	280	129	151	-6.0
Ahascragh	Ahascragh*	3	240	271	124	147	12.9
Kitronan	Inishmore*	53	265	270	133	137	1.9

Table 5 (contd.) Population of Towns ordered by County and size, 1996 and 2002

Town	Electoral Division, etc. (* = part of ED)	Ref. No. of ED in Table 6	1996	2002			Percentage change 1996-2002
			Persons	Persons	Males	Females	
Mayo County (contd.)							
Environs of Castlebar	Total	–	1,947	1,084	509	575	-44.3
	Castlebar Rural*	74	1,947	914	420	494	-53.1
	Breaghwy*	72	–	170	89	81	–
Westport	Westport Town	–	4,253	5,314	2,447	2,867	24.9
	Westport Urban*	4	4,253	5,314	2,447	2,867	24.9
	Kilmeena*	144	–	–	–	–	–
Environs of Westport	Westport Rural*	154	267	320	164	156	19.9
Claremorris	Total	–	1,914	2,101	959	1,142	9.8
	Claremorris*	89	1,879	2,054	932	1,122	9.3
	Crossboyne*	92	35	47	27	20	34.3
Ballinrobe	Ballinrobe*	34	1,309	1,626	834	792	24.2
Swinford	Swineford*	119	1,386	1,497	689	808	8.0
Ballyhaunis	Ballyhaunis*	85	1,287	1,381	731	650	7.3
Kiltimagh	Kiltimagh*	116	917	1,000	486	514	9.1
Belmullet	Belmullet*	55	954	952	450	502	-0.2
Crossmolina	Total	–	1,103	935	468	467	-15.2
	Crossmolina North*	16	722	600	311	289	-16.9
	Crossmolina South*	17	381	335	157	178	-12.1
Foxford	Total	–	944	878	418	460	-7.0
	Toomore*	121	596	508	229	279	-14.8
	Sraheen*	32	348	370	189	181	6.3
Charlestown-Bellahy (pt.)(b)	Total	–	597	675	347	328	13.1
	Sonnagh*	118	347	409	203	206	17.9
	Kilbeagh*	112	250	266	144	122	6.4
Killala	Killala*	25	657	650	325	325	-1.1
Knock	Total	–	575	595	220	375	3.5
	Knock North*	97	216	234	101	133	8.3
	Knock South*	98	303	298	95	203	-1.7
	Ballyhowly*	86	56	63	24	39	12.5
Keel-Dooagh	Stievemore*	152	518	541	270	271	4.4
Newport	Total	–	567	527	244	283	-7.1
	Newport East*	148	487	437	207	230	-10.3
	Derryloughan*	135	80	90	37	53	12.5
Balla	Balla*	67	316	443	209	234	40.2
Achill Sound	Dooega*	136	277	355	167	188	28.2
Shrule	Dalغان*	40	337	326	165	161	-3.3
Ballindine	Ballindine*	84	233	297	142	155	27.5
Bangor Erris	Bangor*	53	251	266	125	141	6.0
Ballycastle	Ballycastle*	11	234	249	120	129	6.4
Kilkelly	Total	–	258	230	116	114	-10.9
	Kilkelly*	113	224	193	96	97	-13.8
	Urlaur*	123	34	37	20	17	8.8
Louisburgh	Louisburgh*	147	150	207	87	120	38.0
Kilmaine	Kilmaine*	44	–	184	93	91	–
Cong (pt.)(b)	Cong*	38	149	149	77	72	–

5

Alan O'Sullivan

From: Niall O'Donnchu
Sent: 16 January 2004 12:24
To: Eamonn Molloy; Kieran Duffy; Alan O'Sullivan; Mary Rapple
Cc: Matthew Collins; Bill Morrissey
Subject: next phase MANS.doc
Importance: High

1. Minister,
2. Secretary General
3. Mr Molloy

Re: Next phase of Regional Metropolitan Area Network Programme

1. As you know, the Government decision of 18 November, 2003 approves a phased investment programme in broadband enabling infrastructure in towns with a population greater than 1,500 which are not targeted by the market for the rollout of broadband services or where the competition needs a fillip. There are currently 88 towns in the sub-set of towns with a population of over 1,500 in the country which aren't being served by the market or by the first phase of the Metropolitan Area Network Programme. This list includes two national spatial strategy hubs.

In addition to those 88 towns built there are three towns with a population less than 1,500 which have been designated in the decentralisation programme announced by the Minister for Finance on budget day. Those three towns are Knock, Clifden and Furbo.

Prior to the submission of the Memo for Government in November the Department had consulted with the Regional Development Agencies in the context of a prioritisation of those towns. Accordingly, the Memo for Government proposed the prioritisation attached at Annex III to that Memo and appended also to this submission. That prioritisation was based on level of population, level of industrial density, strategic relevance in the context of the National Spatial Strategy and regional industrial development priorities and stimulation of competition among broadband and communication service providers in the town. What the memo proposed was a technology neutral MAN type investment involving independent broadband co-location facilities and high speed inter-connection to existing networks and key demand clusters. €80m was sought and approved for this programme over the years 2005 –2007 inclusive.

2. In addition, funding for this element of the broadband programme (as well as the group broadband scheme) was included in the Government approval of 25 November, 2003, for multi-annual budgets. Our Memo for Government of 18th November had, of course, noted the Department of Finance observation that it was a matter, within the context of the multi-annual capital envelopes, for Ministers to prioritise capital projects in their own areas. The Department of Finance has yet to clarify the degree and latitude of delegated approval for the multi-annual capital envelopes and, as a corollary, for the broadband programme. A meeting has been arranged with the Department of Finance to seek some clarity on this issue for this week. Meanwhile, we need to agree a plan of

campaign and the key milestones in the context of the next phase of the Metropolitan Area Network Programme.

3. As stated earlier, there are 90 towns, including decentralisation towns, which are not being addressed by various private and public service broadband programmes at the moment. The investment proposition put forward by us is an investment proposition which takes a 20 year view on the broadband infrastructural requirement and not a shorter term view. It is generally agreed that DSL is an introductory broadband technology and that a strategy based on a copper based broadband infrastructure is not a wise strategy for the long term. Accordingly, while eircom has recently announced its intention to move forward in extending DSL services to towns over 1,500 which are currently not being served, it is not clear to us at this juncture what the details and timing of that investment programme are. In the context of the longer term broadband infrastructural requirements, the Government investment can complement any private sector investment. In that regard, we will continue our exploratory discussions with Eircom and other market players.

4. It is also worth stating that a strategy based on and driven solely by eircom's investment desires is not a strategy which is necessarily synonymous with the national good. Private capital essentially looks after itself (and its shareholders), whereas public capital looks to safeguard the public interest. Given the experience to date with eircom related DSL investment and the difficulties in gaining access to the local loop, we believe the case is stronger than ever to proceed with the Metropolitan Area Network Programme. It may seem somewhat obtuse to be re-arguing this point in the context of an internal memo but I think that we can be confident that this issue may be raised at some point in parliamentary debates, through the media or indeed by eircom itself. Further uncertainty around the advisability of going with an eircom led and dominated strategy is, of course, the likely outcome of the discussions with the Regulator in relation to local loop pricing. While it is very early to say, at this juncture, a likely outcome is a local loop price closer to the €28 per month which eircom is seeking than the €14 or €15 price, which the Regulator feels, is more appropriate. Such an outcome would drive up the cost of access to eircom's network, trim the margins that exist for other operators (given that retail DSL prices finally seem to be on the way down) and effectively stymie competition. A complimentary network investment by Government on the basis of open access would counter-point any anti-competitive or un-competitive tendencies in the eircom network. We will, of course, keep you apprised of the exploratory discussions with eircom and the other industry players.

5. In the meantime, I suggest the following plan of campaign in relation to the next phase of the Metropolitan Area Network Programme. At a high level, what we propose is **three Annual Calls** for proposals from Local Authorities in respect of the 91 towns to be covered by the next phases. The towns have already been prioritised in the aforementioned Memorandum for Government and what we propose **for each phase is that a list of 35 towns** (to give us some scope for inevitable failure) would be earmarked and proposals invited in respect of those towns. 30 towns would then be picked in each phase. Thus, the first call for proposals (which could issue around Easter 2004) would include all the towns listed from **Cavan to Kinsale** and we would add Furbo, Clifden and Knock (i.e., the towns earmarked for decentralisation which do not have a broadband service at present). The Call for Proposals would be based, by and large, on the Call for Proposals deployed on the first phase towns. Obviously, in light of experience, some adjustments will need to be made to that Call. Again, similarly to the first Call we will propose, in principle, to partner with Local Authorities on a 90:10 basis. The rationale for going over 30 towns in each Call is to inject a competitive component into each Call so that Local

Authorities appreciate that their towns have to compete to obtain funding. That usually ekes out better projects and more committed Local Authorities. If Local Authorities have a sense that funding is a foregone conclusion then the quality of project and depth of commitment will suffer. This proposal could be announced in the coming days if you are agreeable. Working back from 1 May, 2004 launch of the first call under the programme the following matters need to be attended to: -

A multi-disciplinary team to manage, administer and advise on the projects submitted would need to be put in place, that will require procurement on the market. We would aim to have that team in place by 1 April, 2004. That team will consist of economists, legal advisors and telecoms technology experts. In order to minimise administrative costs, maximise efficiency and continuity we propose to put that team in place for all three rounds. We will, however, structure the contract to ensure in the currently unforeseen event of the public finances not enabling subsequent or any of the phases to go ahead, the Department will not be liable for the full agreed tender. The Department will also need to put a national project management team in place to oversee the construction phase of the project.

- 6 Under the current phase projects the assessment and evaluation team was separate from the project management team. There are advantages and disadvantages to this and it is our sense that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and that there is a strong case for a project management component separate to the assessment and evaluation team. A serious disadvantage is the Department's over reliance on one particular team for evaluation, assessment and project management. The positive tension between both teams has worked very well in the current programme. The project management is a different discipline to project evaluation and assessment. What we propose is the following: a multi-disciplinary team to deal with call management, project evaluation, project assessment and compliance management. A second team to advise on network design and so forth, to ensure consistency with the Metropolitan Area Networks built already (to the extent that they are fibre based networks and to address interoperability issues to the extent that the networks may be based on other technology solutions), and also to provide national project management to cover the construction phase of the projects. (The technical advisory team and the project management team would be one team).
- 7 Separating the project management team from the evaluation team ensures that that healthy tension continues, avoids a situation where there is a vested interest on the part of the evaluation and assessment team in seeing poorer projects through to completion, averts a situation of over-dependency on one multi-disciplinary team in delivering a very significant infrastructural programme. In summary, the sum of the parts will, in this instance, in our experience, lead to a better qualitative and quantitative outcome. The separate Calls for the multi-disciplinary assessment, evaluation and monitoring team and the technical advisory and project management team will take a number of weeks. It can be based, by and large, on the first phase metropolitan area networks procurements. The procurement papers for the respective teams should be ready by the middle of February.
8. Finally, as stated earlier, we need to determine the degree of delegation from the Department of Finance in respect of this (and indeed of all capital programmes). The Department of Finance should be in a position to clarify that situation by the end of January. In the meantime, the finalisation of invitations to tender for the support roles, finalisation of the call for proposals, promotional material and so forth can all be initiated straight away. The internal team is already in place to initiate with this work.

- 1
9. To summarise, we propose the following milestones:-
- **Clarification on delegated approval for the broadband programme from the Department of Finance – end of January, 2004;**
 - **Announcement of process –end January;**
 - **Invitations to tender for specialist support roles – 15 February, 2004.**
 - **Specialist team in place – mid-April 2004.**
 - **Call for metropolitan area network proposals issued – 1 May 2004.**
 - **National Information Roadshow - selected dates and venues involving Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Shannon Development, Údaras na Gaeltachta and the Department – May and June 2004.**
 - **Deadline for receipt of proposals – mid-July, 2004.**
 - **Evaluation work completed – September, 2004.**
 - **Go-ahead to invite Civils tenders – end September, 2004.**
 - **Central procurement to maximise economies of scale – September and October, 2004 (the existing draw down contracts can also be utilised in this respect)**
 - **Go-ahead to begin work, grant agreements concluded on a phase basis- November, 2004 to February, 2005.**
 - **Second phase projects to be completed – end 2005.**
 - **Call for next 35 towns to follow the same procedure in 2005 as pursued for the first 35 towns in 2004.**
10. While the milestones might seem to be relatively unchallenging, they reflect the experience of the current phase of towns in terms of the efluxion of time from projects being recommended to grant agreements actually being put in place, (discounting the Department of Finance related

delays on the initiation of that phase). The milestones also take into account the likely availability of funds in the current year. It is also likely - and we are discussing this with the Department of Finance - that the six North Eastern towns for which detailed designs have already been scoped and tenders already received may be able to commence sooner than the other towns in the next phase.

I trust that the foregoing is clear and look forward to your agreement, in principle, to proceed. I am, of course, available to discuss at your convenience.

Niall O'Donnchú
15 January, 2004

c.c. Mr Duffy
Mr O'Sullivan
Ms Rapple

15 + 15 + 15 + 3
13 + 12 + 12 + 3

Town	Population CSO 2002	Town	Population CSO 2002
1 Cavan (N.S.S. Hub)	6098	25 Castleblaney	2,936
2 Monaghan (N.S.S. Hub)	5936	26 Sallins	2,922
3 Newbridge	16739	27 Kilcoole	2,826
4 Carrigaline	11,191	28 Cahir	2,794
5 Maynooth	10151	29 Cashel	2,770
6 Cobh	9,811	30 Castleisland	2,162
7 Skerries	9149	31 Atherry	2,154
8 Tramore	8,305	32 Blarney	2,146
9 Midleton	7957	33 Claremorris	2,101
10 Longford	7557	34 Skibbereen	2,000
11 Youghal	6,597	35 Clones	1,947
12 Nenagh	6,454	36 Enniskerry	1,904
13 Trim	5894	37 Kenmare	1,844
14 Kildare	5,694	38 Bundoran	1,842
15 Laytown-Bettystown	5,597	39 Dingle	1,828
16 Carrickmacross	3,832	40 Rathangan	1,811
17 Donabate	3,854	41 Castlerea	1,788
18 Ratoath	3,794	42 Gort	1,776
19 Ballybofey / Stranorlar	3,603	43 Dunmore East	1,750
20 Kinsale	3554	44 Coothill	1,744
21 Mountmellick	3,361	45 Portrane	1,726
22 Mitchelstown	3,300	46 Furbo	319
23 Bantry	3,150	47 Clifden	1,355
24 Dunshaughlin	3063	48 Knock	673

- full list

out

L-Charleston

12/12/03

Towns to be covered in Phases 2 + 3

(7)

Towns to be covered in Phases II and III						
	Town	Population CSO 2002	N.S. S.		Town	Population CSO 2002
1	Cavan	6098	Hub	45	Kilcock	2,740
2	Monaghan	5936	Hub	46	MuineBheag(Bagenalstown)	2,728
3	Newbridge	16739		47	Ballyshannon	2,715
4	Carrigaline	11,191		48	Clara	2,704
5	Maynooth	10151		49	Kilrush	2,699
6	Cobh	9,811		50	Charleville	2,685
7	Skerries	9149		51	Monasterevin	2,583
8	Tramore	8,305		52	Newtownmountkenedy	2,521
9	Midleton	7957		53	Blessington	2,509
10	Longford	7557		54	Rathcoole	2499
11	Youghal	6,597		55	Lusk	2,456
12	Nenagh	6,454		56	Tullow	2,417
13	Trim	5894		57	Templemore	2,270
14	Kildare	5,694		58	Boyle	2,205
15	Laytown-Bettystown	5,597		59	Kinsealy-Drinan	2,110
16	Carrick-on-Suir	5,586		60	Duleek	2,173
17	Dunboyne	5363		61	Castleisland	2,162
18	Buncrana	5,271		62	Athenry	2,154
19	Tipperary	4,964		63	Blarney	2,146
20	Fermoy	4,804		64	Claremorris	2,101
21	Passage West	4,595		65	Skibbereen	2,000
22	Roscrea	4,578		66	Clones	1,947
23	Edenderry	4,559		67	Enniskerry	1,904
24	Birr	4,436		68	Kenmare	1,844
25	Kells	4,421		69	Bundoran	1,842
26	Clane	4417		70	Dingle	1,828
27	Newcastle West	4,017		71	Rathangan	1,811
28	Loughrea	4,004		72	Castlerea	1,788
29	Portarlington	4,001		73	Gort	1,776
30	Ardee	3,948		74	Dunmore East	1,750
31	Carrickmacross	3,832		75	Coothill	1,744
32	Donabate	3,854		76	Portrane	1,726
33	Ratoath	3,794		77	Oranmore	1,692
34	Ballybofey/Stranorlar	3,603		78	Abbeyfeale	1,683
35	Kinsale	3554		79	Carndonagh	1,673
36	Mountmellick	3,361		80	Bailieborough	1,660
37	Mitchelstown	3,300		81	Kanturk	1,651
38	Bantry	3,150		82	Balinrobe	1,626
39	Dunshaughlin	3063		83	Thomastown	1,600
40	Castleblaney	2,936		84	Banagher	1,553

41	Sallins	2,922		85	Athboy	1,538	
42	Kilcoole	2,826		86	Dunmanway	1,532	
43	Cahir	2,794		87	Prosperous	1,523	
44	Cashel	2,770		88	Moate	1,520	

Towns Left Over

ie. Towns which Eircom are not covering for DSL / MAN's

Table 1. Priority Towns for Phase 1 and Phase II of an Advanced Broadband Roll Out Programme

NUTS III Region	County	Centre	Population
			CSO 2002
Border	Donegal	Buncrana	5,271
	Donegal	Ballyshannon	2,715
	Donegal	Donegal	2,453
	Louth	Ardee	3,948
	Monaghan	Carrickmacross	3,832
	Sligo	Sligo	19,735
Mid - East	Kildare	Kildare	5,694
Midlands	Laois	Portarlinton	4,001
	Offaly	Birr	4,436
	Offaly	Edenderry	4,559
Mid-West	Limerick	Limerick City	86,998
	Tipperary NR	Roscrea	4,578
South-East	Tipperary SR	Carrick-on-Suir	5,586
	Tipperary SR	Tipperary	4,964
	Tipperary SR	Cashel	2,770
South-West	Cork	Youghal	6,597
	Cork	Fermoy	4,804
	Cork	Charleville	2,685
West	Galway	Loughrea	4,004
	Galway	Gort	1,776
	Mayo	Claremorris	2,101

* Permanent Full Time employment

Source: CSO Census of Population 1996. Forfás Business Information System.

Table 2.

Towns for Later Phases of an Advanced Broadband Roll Out Programme, Pop >1,500

NUTS III Region	County	Centre	Population
			CSO 2002
Border	Cavan	Coothill	1,744
	Cavan	Bailieborough	1,660
	Donegal	Ballybofey/Stranorlar	3,603
	Monaghan	Castleblaney	2,936
	Monaghan	Clones	1,947
Mid-East	Kildare	Leixlip	15,016
	Kildare	Celbridge	16,016
	Kildare	Kilcock	2,740
	Meath	Kells	4,421
	Meath	Duleek	2,173
	Wicklow	Bray	30,951
	Wicklow	Blessington	2,509
	Wicklow	Newtownmountkennedy	2,521
	Wicklow	Kilcoole	2,826
	Wicklow	Enniskerry	1,904
Wicklow	Greystones	11,913	
Midlands	Laois	Mountmellick	3,361
	Offaly	Clara	2,704
Mid-West	Clare	Kilrush	2,699
	Limerick	Newcastle West	4,017
	Tipperary NR	Templemore	2,270
South-East	Carlow	MuineBheag(Bagenalstown)	2,728
	Carlow	Tullow	2,417
	Kilkenny	Thomastown	1,600
	Tipperary SR	Cahir	2,794
	Waterford	Tramore	8,305
South-West	Cork	Carrigaline	11,191
	Cork	Mitchelstown	3,300
	Cork	Bantry	3,150
	Cork	Clonakilty	3,698
	Cork	Kanturk	1,651
	Cork	Skibbereen	2,000
	Cork	Cobh	9,811
	Cork	Passage West	4,595
	Cork	Blarney	2,146
	Kerry	Castleisland	2,162
Kerry	Dingle	1,828	
West	Donegal	Carndonagh	1,673
	Donegal	Bundoran	1,842
	Galway	Athenry	2,154
	Roscommon	Boyle	2,205
	Roscommon	Castlerea	1,788

* Permanent Full Time employment

Source: CSO Census of Population 1996. Forfás Business Information System.

NUTS III Region	County	Centre	Population
			CSO 2002
	Kildare	Sallins	2,922
	Kildare	Kill	2,246
	Kildare	Rathangan	1,811
	Kildare	Prosperous	1,523
	Meath	Ratoath	3,794
	Meath	Athboy	1,538
Midlands	Offaly	Banagher	1,553
	Offaly	Moate	1,520
South-West	Limerick	Abbeyfeale	1,683
	Cork	Dunmanway	1,532
	Kerry	Kenmare	1,844
South-East	Waterford	Dunmore East	1,750
West	Galway	Oranmore	1,692
	Mayo	Balinrobe	1,626

* Towns that no longer qualify for broadband infrastructure.
Source: CSO Census of Population 2002.