



21 February 2007

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FOI/0010/2007

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Act for access to records held by this Department relating to the Oil and Gas industry.

You have requested the following:

1. All information on exploration licences granted and future blocks to be released
2. Minutes of all meetings between ex Minister for the Marine Frank Fahey and officials of Enterprise Energy Ireland in relation to exploration licences.

Your request has been part-granted and I attach all relevant information with this letter. Please find included a Schedule of all records associated with your request, detailing the order in which they are filed here.

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 FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Earlsvale Road, 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 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.

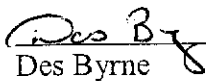
In your request letter, you also asked some questions relating to exploration licences and their value.

Ireland currently imports around 85% of our gas requirements and 100% of our oil requirements. It is therefore government policy to encourage petroleum exploration to try and reduce our high dependence on imports. The current licensing terms were very carefully designed to compensate for the national disadvantage of the Irish offshore in terms of perceived prospectivity and operating conditions and to encourage interest, exploration and development. These terms are currently under review.

The Corrib field is a small to medium sized gas field. To put it's value as in excess of 50 billion euro is extremely optimistic.

Exploration Licences do not have any financial value unless a discovery is made and unless such a discovery can be developed commercially.

Yours sincerely,



Des Byrne
Petroleum Affairs Division
PH: 6782693

FOI Request Reference: FOI/0010/2007

Schedule of Records: Summary of Decision Making

Requesting information re. Corrib gas field and offshore oil and gas explorations.

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	Six monthly reports to the Oireachtas back to April 1998 on Oil and Gas Exploration and Development	B07/06	17 reports (approx 10 pages each)	The report for June to December 2006 is currently being prepared		Granted		
2	Submission to Minister on 2007 Porcupine Round	C08/42	4	Final details of the round have not issued		Granted		
3	Minutes of meeting between ex Minister Fahey and officials of Enterprise Energy Ireland relating to exploration licences		0			Refused	Records do not exist- Section 10 (1)(a)	



24th January, 2007

[REDACTED]

FOI/0010/2007

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to the Freedom of Information request received in this office on 24/01/2007 along with the associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Mr Des Byrne, Petroleum Affairs Division, Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Beggars Bush, Dublin 2. He can be contacted at 01 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 21/02/2007.

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. Frank O'Brien, FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd., Cavan. 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,

M. Rabbitte

Mary Rabbitte
FOI Unit
PH: 01 6782903

[REDACTED]

12/01/07

A Chara,

I have enclosed a €15 postal order towards fee for information previously requested in relation (12/11/06) to the Corrib Gas field and other offshore oil and gas explorations dealt with by the government over the years.

White Birch

[REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW
CAVAN
24 JAN 2007
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS,
MARINE & NATURAL RESOURCES
ROINN CUMARSAIDE MARA
AGUS ACHMHAINNI NADURTHA



[REDACTED]

FILE COPY

Friday, 01 December 2006

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Act concerning the Atlantic offshore oil and gas exploration blocks.

I am to advise you that an application fee must accompany all FOI requests for non-personal records, and your request cannot be processed until the fee has been submitted. The application fee is currently €15.00 and a reduced fee of €10.00 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 appropriate fee, an acknowledgement letter will issue to you outlining details of how your request will proceed.

Please note that the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources has a policy of posting all non-personal FOI requests, name and address of the requestor and the subsequent reply on the Department's website for reference purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Seána McGearty
FOI Unit
PH: 01 678 2902

Department of Communications,
Marine and Natural Resources

An Roinn Cumarsáide,
Mara agus Acmhainní Nádurtha

Office of the Minister
Oifig an Aire

Dublin 2
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Tel +353 1 678 9807
LoCall 1890 44 99 00
Fax +353 1 678 2029
Email: minister.dempsey@dcmnr.gov.ie
www.dcmnr.gov.ie

30 November 2006

[REDACTED]

Re: Offshore oil and gas exploration

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of Mr. Noel Dempsey T.D., Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 12 November 2006.

Yours sincerely

Carina O'Donoghue

Carina O'Donoghue
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

Communications

Broadcasting

Energy

Marine

Natural Resources

Beidh fáilte roimh comhfhreagaras as Gaeilge

FAO MARY RABBITE / SEANA MCGEEZM
For Observations (FOI)
For Action
For Follow Up
For Information
C.C.
Date 30.11.2006

Noel Dempsey TD
Dept of Communications, Marine
& Natural Resources,
29-31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2

Name

Address

Date

12/11/06

Dear Minister Dempsey,

As a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, and a member of the electorate, I feel extremely concerned at your Department's mismanagement of our countries valuable assets, more specifically the Atlantic offshore oil and gas exploration blocks.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information act, I request the answers to the following questions.

1. Why, after the true value of the Corrib Gas field is known be in excess of €50 Billion does your department continue to give away exploration licences, with no royalties to the state, no state shareholding, and the lowest corporate tax in the world?
2. Can you verify the estimated financial value of the blocks already granted.
3. Explain clearly how your departments reckless actions are in the interest of the Irish people.

I also request the following information in relation to the Oil and Gas industry to be forwarded to me:-

1. All information on exploration licences granted and future blocks to be released.
2. Minutes of all meetings between ex ministers for marine Frank Fahey and officials of Enterprise energy Ireland in relation exploration licences.

Until the above questions are satisfactorily answered and the requested information is forward to me I demand the following :-

1. An immediate stop to the issue of exploration licences, and the squandering of our countries natural resources at minimal benefit to the Irish people.
2. The establishment of an immediate Tribunal of enquiry to investigate if any payments to politicians have being made in relation to the oil and gas industry.
3. An immediate stop to work on the refinery at Bellanaboy until the tribunal of investigation conducts its enquiries..

Yours sincerely

Office of the Minister
Dept. of Communications, Marine

30 NOV 2006

Oifig an Aire
An Roinn Cumarsáide, Mara
Agus Achainní Náúúrtha