

THE IRISH TIMES

FOI UNIT
CAYAN

- 2 DEC 2008

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS,
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
ROINN CUMARSAIDE, FUIINMIRI
AGUS ACMHAINNI NADURTHA

Freedom of Information Unit,
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Elm House,
Earlsvale Road,
Cavan

11/12/08

Dear Sir/Madam

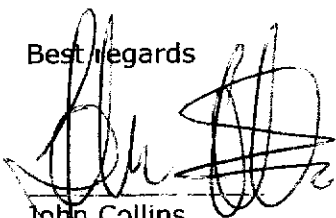
In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act I would like to apply for a copy of the following records which I believe to be held by your Department:

- All documents – including letters, e-mails, briefing notes – held by the Department containing references to the transfer of responsibility for Information Society matters to the Department from the Department of the Taoiseach
- All documents – including letters, e-mails, briefing notes – held by the Department containing references to the establishment of an Information Society function within the Department

I am happy to receive these documents by email or other electronic means.

I enclose a cheque for €15 to cover the cost of this application.

Best regards



John Collins
Assistant Business Editor
The Irish Times
087 242 6734
jcollins@irish-times.ie



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

09/12/2008

Mr John Collins
The Irish Times Ltd.
P.O. Box 74,
24 - 28 Tara St.
Dublin 2.

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2008/62

Dear Mr Collins,

I refer to your FOI request under Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, received in this office on 02/12/2008 requesting records regarding the transfer of responsibility for Information Society matters. The application was received along with the associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Ms Ann Kissane, Human Resources Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2. Ann can be contacted on 016782173

You can expect to receive your decision by the 02/01/2009.

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.

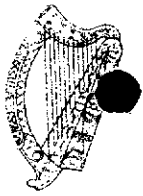
Please note the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources has a policy of posting a summary of non-personal requests and decisions on the Departments website for reference purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Cosgrove
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 Náúúrtha
Baile Átha Cliath 2.

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

7 January 2009

Mr John Collins
The Irish Times Ltd.
P.O. Box 74
24 - 28 Tara St.
Dublin 2.

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2008/62

Dear Mr Collins

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003, concerning records regarding the transfer of responsibility for Information Society matters from the Department of the Taoiseach to this Department.

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 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.

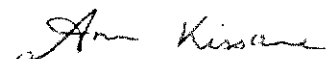
If claiming a reduced application fee, the request must also be accompanied by

- 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



Ann Kissane
Human Resources Division
Phone: (01) 6782173

FOI Request Reference: RequestID: 391

Schedule of Records: Summary of Decision Making

Requesting records regarding the transfer of responsibility for Information Society matters

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	Email dated 19/11/07 from Minister of State's Special Adviser, S. Duke, to Secretary General, A. Dunning, re transfer of Information Society	Page 1	1			Grant		
2	Email dated 13/05/08 from Oireachtas to DCENR re Taoiseach's announcement of appointment of Ministers of State	Pages 2-4	3			Grant		
3	Email dated 14/5/08 from Sec Gen to, E. Molloy, Assistant Secretary re Statement of Strategy.	Page 5	1			Grant		
4	Email dated 15/05/08 from Personnel Officer, D Hanley, to A Dunning & E Molloy re extra staffing demands	Page 6	1			Grant		
5	Email dated 15/5/08 from D Hanley to A Dunning re transfer of Info Soc functions	Page 7	1			Grant		
6	Email dated 16/5/08 from D Hanley to A Dunning re staffing of Info Soc Section in DCENR	Page 8	1			Grant		
7	Internal DCENR email dated 20/5/08 re IBEC email of 8/5/08 on Taoiseach's speech	Pages 9-10	2			Refused - Not relevant		
8	Emails dated 27/5/08 between P O'Neill & B. Carroll on Info Soc transfer	Page 11	1			Grant		

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
9	Email dated 29/5/08 from D Hanley to Taoiseach's Office & Dept of Finance re transfer of Info Soc & reply from Taoiseach's (with attachments)	Pages 12-26	15			Grant		
10	Email dated 24/6/08 from B Carroll, DCENR, to P Kiernan, Taoiseach's Office, re transfer of Info Soc functions	Pages 27-28	2			Grant		
11	Email from A Jordan, Info Soc, to D Hanley re Roles & Reporting	Pages 29-33	5			Part Grant		Names of Staff members deleted
12	Email dated 2/7/08 from B Carroll to P Kiernan re transfer of Info Soc	Page 34				Grant		
13	Email dated 8/7/08 from J Kelleher, Taoiseach's Office, to B Carroll re Transfer of Functions Order	Pages 35 -37	3			Grant		
14	Email dated 10/7/08 from B Carroll to D Hanley re savings on Payroll in 2008	Page 38	1			Part Grant		Non relevant information deleted
15	Email dated 19/12/08 from B Carroll to A Kissane with 2 attachments on Info Soc costs	Pages 39-41	3			Part Grant		Names of Staff members deleted on page 40
16	Email re funds for Info Soc, dated 11/7/08, from P Kiernan to B Carroll and B Carroll's response of 22/7/08	Pages 42-43	2			Grant		
17	Emails dated 4/9 & 5/9/08 between B Carroll & A Dunning re Dept of Finance email of 4/9/08 on DCENR Estimates	Pages 44-46	3			Part Grant		Non relevant information deleted

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
18	Email of 8/9/08 from M Emerson, DoF. to B Carroll & D Hanley re Info Soc	Pages 47-49	3			Grant		
19	Email dated 8/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll & D Hanley re number of posts to transfer to DCENR	Pages 50-53	4			Grant		
20	Email dated 11/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll re funds for Info Soc	Pages 54-56	3			Grant		
21	Email dated 11/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll re Info Soc funds	Page 57	1			Grant		
22	Email dated 16/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll & D Hanley re formal agreement for transfer of funds	Pages 58-61	4			Grant		
23	Email dated 16/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll re E Barry (DoF) email of same date containing details of resources transferring from Taoiseach's Office to DCENR for 2008.	Pages 62-64	3			Grant		
24	Email dated 16/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll re set of further revised estimates for DCENR	Pages 65-68	4			Grant		
25	Email dated 16/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll re Table for Estimates	Pages 69-70	2			Grant		
26	Email dated 16/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll attaching draft skeleton for Further Revised Estimates (FRE) for 2008	Pages 71-84				Part Grant Pages 75-84 excluded, not relevant		
27	Email dated 17/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll re Transfer of Functions Order	Pages 85-87	3			Grant		

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
28	Email dated 18/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll re Transfer of Functions query	Pages 88-92	5			Part Grant Advice from Office of the Attorney General refused	Section 22- Legal Privilege	Advice from AG's Office on page 89 deleted
29	Email dated 18/9/08 from B Carroll to A Dunning & E Molloy re email of same date from DoF on Estimate demand	Pages 93-95	3			Part Grant Pages 94&95 excluded, not relevant		Non relevant information on Page 93 deleted
30	Email dated 19/9/08 from m Emerson to B Carroll re email of same date from Taoiseach's Office on transfer of Info Soc funding	Pages 96-97	2			Grant		
31	Email dated 19/9/08 from m Emerson to B Carroll re Transfer of Functions	Page 98	1			Grant		
32	Email dated 19/9/08 from M Emerson to P Kiernan & B Carroll re 2008 FRE	Pages 99 - 102	3			Part Grant Pages 100 & 101 excluded, not relevant.		Non -relevant information on page 102 deleted

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
33	Email dated 19/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll & P Kiernan re replacement spreadsheet for ToF	Pages 103-104	2			Part Grant		Non relevant information on Page 104 deleted
34	Email dated 22/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll change of template for FRE	Page 105	1			Grant		
35	Email of 23/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll re changes to FRE 2008	Pages 106-112	6			Part Grant Pages 108-112 excluded, not relevant		Non relevant information on Page 106 deleted.
36	Email of 24/9/08 from M Emerson to B Carroll re FRE	Pages 113-116	4			Grant		
37	Email dated 26/9/08 from DCENR Minister of State's Private Sec to Minister's Private Sec	Page 117	1			Grant		
38	Email dated 1/10/08 from E Molloy to Minister of State's Private Sec re wording of draft Memo to Govt. on delegation of functions	Pages 118-128	11			Part grant Pages 120-128 refused	Matters before Government- Section 19	
39	Email dated 20/10/08 from E Molloy to Minister's Private Sec attaching note for info to Minister for use at Cabinet	Pages 129-130	2			Part grant Page 130 refused	Matters before Government- Section 19	
40	Email dated 23/10/08 from A Jordan, Info Soc., attaching copy of letter to Dept of Finance requesting sanction to proceed with eInclusion Grant scheme.	Pages 131-138	8			Grant		

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
41	Email dated 23/10/08 from Minister of State's Private Sec to Minister's Private Sec re notice to issue from E. Molloy on Delegation of Ministerial Functions Order	Pages 139-141	3			Grant		
42	Email dated 28/10/08 from Minister's Private Sec to staff re new working arrangements	Pages 142-149	8			Part Grant Pages 143-145 containing draft Memo to Govt refused	Matters before Government- Section 19	
43	Email dated 12/11/08 from P O'Neill to D Hanley re job specifications for Info Soc posts	Pages 150-152	3			Part Grant Pages 151-152 refused	Deliberative Process- Section 20	
44	Staff Notice re Ministerial Delegation of Functions issued on 19/11/08	153-160	8			Grant		
45	Copy of letter dated 9/10/08 from D Mc Carthy, to A Dunning re transfer of Info Soc functions to DCENR	Page 161	1			Grant		
46	Email dated 15/12/08 from Secretary General's Office to E Molloy & B Carroll re draft reply to D McCarthy letter	Pages 162 - 163	2			Grant		
47	Email dated 15/12/08 from Sec Gen's Office to B Carroll & E Molloy attaching copy of reply issued to D McCarthy on same date.	Pages 164-165	2			Grant		
48	Parliamentary Questions 28305/08, 37234/08 & 38282/08	Pages 166-169	4			Grant		

Record 1.

From: Suzanne Duke
Sent: 19 November 2007 17:05
To: Aidan Dunning
Subject: RE:

Appreciate that, thanks Aidan

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

From: Aidan Dunning
Sent: 19 November 2007 16:34
To: Suzanne Duke
Cc: Minister Ryan; Peter O'Neill
Subject: RE:

Sue

I am to discuss this with Dermot McCarthy. I will report back and we can then decide how best to proceed to bring this about.

AD

From: Suzanne Duke
Sent: 19 November 2007 16:19
To: Aidan Dunning
Cc: Peter O'Neill; Minister Ryan
Subject:

Aidan,

I spoke with Gerry Hickey this afternoon and raised the issue of the transfer of Information Society from Taoiseach's to our dept. The Taoiseach has no objection to this and it would seem that the quickest way to proceed is to prepare a memo for cabinet seeking a decision on same.

Are we happy to proceed this way?

Best

Sue

From: Aoife McQuillan
Sent: 13 May 2008 16:48
To: Aidan Dunning
Cc: Susan Lowen; Eamonn Molloy; Martin Brennan; Peter O'Neill; Sara White
Subject: FW: Taoiseach's announcement of appointments of Ministers of State

Aidan,

Official release re appointment of new Minister's of State

Regards
Aoife

From: Anne.Quinn@oireachtas.ie [mailto:Anne.Quinn@oireachtas.ie]
Sent: 13 May 2008 16:43
Subject: Fw: Taoiseach ?s announcement of appointments of Ministers of State

----- Forwarded by Anne Quinn/Oireachtas on 13/05/2008 16:38 -----
Michael.Moran@Taoiseach.Gov.IE

13/05/2008 16:41

DÁIL ÉIREANN, 13 MAY, 2008

Taoiseach's announcement of appointments of Ministers of State

A Cheann Comhairle, you will recall that on 8 May, 2008 I announced for the information of the Dáil that the Government had appointed Pat Carey, Barry Andrews, Dick Roche and Trevor Sargent to be Ministers of State. I now wish to announce, for the information of the Dáil that the Government have

(1) today appointed:

Noel Ahern to be Minister of State at the Department of Transport (with special responsibility for Road Safety);

Seán Power to be Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (with special responsibility for the Information Society and Natural Resources);

Tony Killeen to be Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (with special responsibility for Fisheries and Forestry);

Conor Lenihan to be Minister of State at the Departments of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Education and Science and Justice, Equality and Law Reform (with special responsibility for Integration Policy);

Mary Wallace to be Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children (with special responsibility for Health Promotion and Food Safety);

Seán Haughey to be Minister of State at the Departments of Education and Science and Enterprise, Trade and Employment (with special responsibility for Lifelong Learning and School Transport);

Michael Kitt to be Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (with special responsibility for Local Services);

Billy Kelleher to be Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (with special responsibility for Labour Affairs);

John McGuinness to be Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (with special responsibility for Trade and Commerce);

Jimmy Devins to be Minister of State at the Departments of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Education and Science (with special responsibility for Science, Technology and Innovation);

Máire Hctor to be Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children, at the Department of Social and Family Affairs and at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (with special responsibility for Older People);

John Moloney to be Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children, at the Department of Education and Science, at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and at the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform (with special responsibility for Equality, Disability Issues and Mental Health);

Michael Finneran to be Minister of State at the Department of the

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Environment, Heritage and Local Government (with special responsibility for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas);

John Curran to be Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (with special responsibility for Drugs Strategy and Community Affairs);

Peter Power to be Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs (with special responsibility for Overseas Development); and

Martin Mansergh to be Minister of State at the Department of Finance (including special responsibility for the Office of Public Works) and at the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism (with special responsibility for the Arts); and

(2) assigned Active Citizenship to Minister of State Pat Carey.

*

Tá Roinn an Taoisigh meáite ar seirbhís phroifisiúnta, éifeachtach agus chúirtéiseach a sholáthar dár gcustaiméirí go léir. Chun amharc ar an Chairt do Chustaiméirí, clliceáil ar <http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie//irish/index.asp?docID=1763>

Is le haghaidh an duine nó an aonáin ar seoladh dó/di an t-eolas a seachadadh, agus d'fhéadadh ábhar faoi rún agus/nó ábhar faoi phribhléid a bheith istigh leis. Tá cosc ar aon athbhreithniú, athsheachadadh, scaipeadh faisnéise nó aon úsáid eile den eolas seo ag aon aonáin eile seachas an faighteoir beartaithe, ná aon ghníomh a thógáil i dtuilleamaí an eolais seo. Má fuair tú seo de bharr earráide, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil. Is é polasaí Roinn an Taoisigh cosc a chur ar ábhar maslach a sheoladh, agus más rud é go gceapann tú go bhfuil an t-ábhar istigh leis an teachtaireacht seo maslach ba cheart duit dul i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir ar an bpointe agus le itu@taoiseach.gov.ie freisin.

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From: Eamonn Molloy
Sent: 14 May 2008 17:16
To: Aidan Dunning
Subject: RE: Statement of Strategy

Aidan

Will do.

Eamonn

From: Aidan Dunning
Sent: 14 May 2008 15:58
To: Eamonn Molloy
Cc: Assistant Secretaries; Dave Hanley
Subject: Statement of Strategy

Eamonn

At today's briefing it was indicated that already cleared Statements could be published subject to adding anything of significance arising from the new Govt. We will have to include a reference to the Knowledge/Information Society brief in the Communications Section and also include reference to the new MOS. We should run changes by the Minister and aim to publish asap.

Aidan

Record 4

From: Dave Hanley
Sent: 15 May 2008 17:05
To: Aidan Dunning; Eamonn Molloy
Subject:
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

I have spoken to David Denny regarding (a) the extra staffing demands resulting from the assignment of a dedicated MoS to this Department and (b) the issues surrounding the transfer of the InfoSoc functions to here.

He reckons one might help the other in the sense that some of the InfoSoc posts could be used to relieve staffing pressures elsewhere within the Department.

We agreed to talk further early next week after Aidan and Dermot McCarthy had met and hopefully clarified some of the issues involved.

Dave

From: Dave Hanley
Sent: 15 May 2008 18:02
To: Aidan Dunning
Cc: Eamonn Molloy; Peter O'Neill
Subject: Transfer of InfoSoc functions.
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

Aidan, just a couple of points arising from my meeting today with Aileen Healy (D. Taoiseach) and Des O'Leary from Finance.

I have requested Taoiseach's to quickly provide us with figures around the annual cost of running this function. This is to include staffing costs, T&S (which I understand to be significant), and any other miscellaneous expenditure. They do not have devolved budgets in that department but they say they can provide this material very soon.

I also asked for a short note setting out the main issues and business priorities (this is in addition to the Business Plan obtained by Peter O'Neill) plus some info around main stakeholders etc.

I also discovered that part of the Division's work includes administering a €3m per annum grant scheme for community groups, colleges and the elderly. The official did not appear to know a lot about the detail of this but it strikes me that we should establish where this work is ultimately going.

D Finance indicated that they are interested in taking 3 of the 9 staff (AP, HEO, EO). That will leave 1 PO, 1 AP, 1 AO and 2 COs. Two of the staff seemingly have provincial tags on them for decentralisation purposes.

It was agreed that we will probably have to involve David Denny in Finance in ultimately resolving the various HR/budgetary aspects of the proposed transfer of functions but that we should await the outcome of your meeting with Dermot McCarthy before taking this any further.

Dave Hanley
Personnel Officer
DCENR

From: Dave Hanley
Sent: 16 May 2008 13:03
To: Aidan Dunning
Subject:
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

Aidan, some initial thoughts on us taking some posts to accompany the Infosoc functions:

Given the extra headcount the new Minister of State will be bringing into the department, it seems to me that posts from Taoiseach's could be very beneficial to us in trying to respond positively to the MoS demands;

Even if we are to pursue the day to day operations of InfoSoc through outside expertise, we will still end up having to pay for those actually carrying out the work and, if this happens to be done by existing civil servants, we will probably have to take them onto our books anyway – therefore having the sanctioned increased headcount is very important;

One of those posts is at PO/Director level – we might need to think about whether we require someone at that level. Again because of our collective lack of detailed knowledge about what precisely is involved in this work, it is probably difficult to be certain at this stage about what we actually need;

While I know your strong preference is for the posts and not the actual personnel, we might need to reflect on the critical issue of knowledge transfer – how will we get on top of this new brief if we do not have the existing staff to show us the ropes?

While the number of posts is very small, they do nonetheless give a potential 5-6 extra posts to add to the overall numbers for Cavan – assuming that is that there is a view at Ministerial and senior management level that ultimately this function could be carried out in Cavan.

We can discuss in more detail if you wish.

Dave

From: Peter O'Neill
Sent: 27 May 2008 17:46
To: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: RE: Knowledge Society

Brian

This is uncertain at present, it will hinge on when we get staff. There are about 8 posts. It looks like a small number of staff will transfer and we will have to fill the remaining posts. I'll get back to you when things are clearer but feel free to ring me if you wish.

Peter

From: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Sent: 27 May 2008 17:15
To: Peter O'Neill
Subject: Knowledge Society

Peter

Following up from MC this AM, I would like, when you have a chance, to discuss timelines for transfer from D/Taoiseach of above.

Regards
Brian

Record 9.

12

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

From: Dave Hanley
Sent: 05 June 2008 10:16
To: Brian Carroll .T- Corporate Finance
Subject: FW: Transfer of Infosoc functions to DCENR
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

Brian, copy of spreadsheet I received from Taoiseach's re costs associated with Infosoc functions.

Dave.

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

From: Aileen.Healy@taoiseach.gov.ie [mailto:Aileen.Healy@taoiseach.gov.ie]
Sent: 29 May 2008 17:06
To: Dave Hanley
Cc: Martin.Fraser@taoiseach.gov.ie
Subject: Re: Transfer of Infosoc functions to DCENR

Hi Dave

I attach a number of documents which I hope will provide answers to your queries:

In relation to the priorities and issues, I attach relevant extracts from the following documents which give an overview of the position:

2008 Strategy Statement

(See attached file: Extract from Strategy Statement Strategic Priority F.doc)

2008 Annual Output Statement

(See attached file: Extract from 2008 Output Statement Strategic Priority F.doc)

Briefing on the 2008 Estimate provision

(See attached file: Briefing on Strategic Objective F.doc)

The following spreadsheet sets out an estimate of the associated costs. You may wish to note that the A1 costs included are based on the average salary for each grade to which PRSI at the appropriate rates would also apply. There was a negligible amount of overtime in 2007. Non-pay costs are also included based on 2007 actuals.

(See attached file: Costs of ISPU.xls)

In relation to the eInclusion fund, there is a provision in Subhead I of this Departments Vote for 2008 of €3m. I understand that approximately 3 staff are involved in the operation of this scheme, although this is generally less at non-peak times as the annual cycle of awarding grants means that staff may be redeployed to other areas of the work when not busy with the scheme. Some details regarding the scheme are included in the briefing document attached above.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further

information.

Regards

Aileen

"Dave Hanley"
<Dave.Hanley@dcen
r.gov.ie>

29/05/2008 12:10

To
<Martin.Fraser@taoiseach.gov.ie>,
<Aileen.Healy@taoiseach.gov.ie>

cc
"Denny, David"
<David.Denny@finance.gov.ie>

Subject
Transfer of Infosoc functions to
DCENR

(Embedded image moved to file: pic15141.jpg)

Folks, I am under some pressure from my Minister and Sec-Gen to move this matter on as quickly as possible.

Given the discussions that have taken place to-date would it be possible to get some detailed information regarding the following:

ØStrategic and day to day operation priorities/issues the Unit is dealing with;

ØTotal annual A1 costs associated with running the Unit;

ØTotal non-pay costs (including T&S, A7 etc)

ØSome details surrounding the funding and operation of the E Inclusion Fund administered by the Unit, including staffing resources assigned specifically to deal with this work area.

As you are aware our approach has been to seek the headcount and A1 plus ancillary costs but not necessarily the staff. However, it is likely that 3 to 4 staff will/might have to transfer here with the functions.

I am available next week should we need to sit down to discuss these or any other issues related to this matter.

I would again emphasise that there are time pressures involved here and I am therefore anxious to progress this as quickly as possible.

Many thanks

Dave Hanley

Personnel Officer

DCENR

Tá Roinn an Taoiseach meáite ar seirbhís phroifisiúnta, éifeachtach agus chúirtéiseach a sholáthar dár gcustaiméirí go léir. Chun amharc ar an Chairt do Chustaiméirí, cliceáil ar <http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie//irish/index.asp?docID=1763>

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Strategic Priority F – The Knowledge Society

Overall Goal: To build and develop a digitally inclusive society

Key Objectives	Actions	Indicators
<p>To ensure that there is a strategic policy framework including mechanisms for Ireland to further build and develop our digitally inclusive society and in so doing to benefit our citizens, our institutions and our economy.</p>	<p>To engage with all relevant stakeholders, and to have regard to relevant research and policy objectives, in formulating and agreeing strategies to focus on the specific areas of the use of new media technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in Society • in Government and in the Public Sector • in Commerce 	<p>New strategy document(s) reflecting emerging needs;</p> <p>Annual progress reports.</p> <p>International comparative reports on the development of a digitally inclusive society showing Ireland in an improved position.</p> <p>Agreement on frameworks for the future use of technology in Government</p> <p>Agreement on an action plan for a national e-payments strategy</p>
<p>To support the work of the Minister of State in promoting a more digitally inclusive society in Ireland.</p>	<p>Put in place agreed and or new initiatives to help us to achieve specific agreed goals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement of older people • Advantages for communities and individuals through greater exploitation of technologies • Greater use of technology in the democratic process 	<p>Public perception of the existence of strong leadership and engagement with the issues to be addressed.</p> <p>Survey data to indicate increased participation/engagement.</p>
<p>Promote greater engagement with and participation in a more digitally inclusive society</p>	<p>To promote stakeholder acceptance of roles and responsibilities in building the knowledge society.</p> <p>To raise awareness of the potential benefits of participation for everyone whether engaged in</p>	<p>Public and sectoral awareness of policies to address the issues.</p> <p>Agreement on an implementation strategy for a national spatial data infrastructure</p>

	<p>business, social interaction, or for transactions with government.</p> <p>To encourage the creation of new Digital Content likely to be relevant to citizens and businesses so as to further enhance the attractiveness of engagement and in doing so, to facilitate new innovation and efficiencies</p> <p>To conduct research on specific areas to inform future policy.</p>	<p>Increased engagement with and participation in the knowledge society as reflected by annual surveys such as the Central Statistics Office's Quarterly National household Survey and ICT Enterprise Survey and others</p>
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Strategic Priority F: The Knowledge Society and eGovernment

To build and develop a knowledge society.

The Department's role is to support the building and development of the Knowledge Society. This role involves identifying the way forward, preparing and co-ordination of a strategy to implement this vision. It is also concerned to promote an inclusive knowledge society whereby all members of society can access and benefit from the benefits on technological development.

Key Measures

The key measures underpinning this Objective are:

1. To support a strategic policy framework for Ireland to build and develop a knowledge society to underpin the emerging knowledge economy
2. To support the work of the Taoiseach and the Government Chief Whip on knowledge society and related issues
3. To promote ownership, participation and inclusion in the knowledge society
4. To have adequate implementation mechanisms for relevant public policies

Strategic Priority F: The Knowledge Society and eGovernment	Inputs			
	2007		2008	% Change 2008 over 2007
	Budget €million	Outturn €million	Budget €million	
Administration Pay	0.458	0.498	0.511	3%
Expenditure Non-pay	0.137	0.093	0.150	62%
Support Expenditure	0.454	0.437	0.496	13%
Programme Pay	0.000	0.000	0.000	0%
Expenditure Non-pay	3.000	2.767	3.000	8%
Total Gross Expenditure	4.049	3.796	4.158	10%
Appropriations-in-Aid	0.000	0.000	0.000	0%
Net Expenditure	4.049	3.796	4.158	10%
Staff numbers at 31/12/07 (whole-time equivalent)				

Outputs		
2007	2007	2008
Output Target	Output Achieved	Output Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Situational Review and re-appraise policy priorities in light of inputs and research. • Agree and Publish a New Knowledge Society Action Plan. • Allocate up to €3m in e-Inclusion funding. • Launch and promote the Home Computing Initiative (HCI) to encourage more people to acquire and use computer technology. • Conclude research project on non-use of internet by senior citizens. • Continue stakeholder engagement to progress policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was done in the context of drafting the new Action Plan on the Knowledge Society. • A new Knowledge Society Action Plan has been drafted and will be submitted to Government shortly. • As of 7 December approximately €2.7m has been allocated to over 90 separate initiatives. • The HCI was endorsed by Government in March and was subsequently launched by the Taoiseach and Information Society Minister Tom Kitt. It is now operational. • This project was successfully concluded in May 2007. Its findings have provided useful insights which have been taken account of in formulating new policy measures in the new Knowledge Society Action Plan. • This continues to be done on an ongoing basis nationally and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise and seek the approval of Government for a new Action Plan on the Knowledge Society. • Commence progressing the objectives of the new Action Plan. • Operate the ASC funding scheme for 2008. Seek proposals, evaluate them and issue funding as appropriate. • Put in place a new facility for the ISPU and the Department to conduct on-line surveys. • Host an ePayments conference to explore how use of ePayments systems in Ireland can be further promoted. • Host an eInclusion conference to showcase effective approaches to achieving eInclusion. • Explore new initiatives to increase awareness amongst older people of the relevance to them of information society

objectives.	internationally, bilaterally and in various conference fora, as well as in the context of the ASC Initiative.	technologies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and launch new website to encourage and facilitate participation in the Knowledge Society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An outline of a new website was developed. It was subsequently decided that a different approach should be taken so as to optimise the value of such an on-line resource for those involved in progressing knowledge society objectives. The new approach will be implemented in 2008 as soon as resources permit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have regard to, and if appropriate, commission research to further assist in policy formulation and promotion of eInclusion.

Strategic Objective F: The Knowledge Society

Objective: To build and develop a knowledge society.

- By:**
1. Supporting a strategic policy framework for Ireland to build and develop a knowledge society to underpin the emerging knowledge economy
 2. Supporting the work of the Taoiseach and the Government Chief Whip on knowledge society and related issues
 3. Promoting ownership, participation and inclusion in the knowledge society
 4. Having adequate implementation mechanisms for relevant public policies

The Department's role is to lead and co-ordinate the building and development of the Knowledge Society. This role involves identifying the way forward, preparing and co-ordination of a strategy to implement this vision. It is also concerned to promote an inclusive knowledge society whereby all members of society can access and benefit from the benefits on technological development.

Action Plan

Work is ongoing on the new Knowledge Society Action Plan, to replace New Connections (which remains in place until the new plan is approved), and the Plan will be submitted to Government by the end of July 2008. The Action Plan will have regard to the recommendations of the C&AG Report on eGovernment; the review of Reach and the Public Services Broker; and the forthcoming OECD Review of the Public Service in Ireland.

Infrastructure Development

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources is responsible for access to broadband services. In 2007, broadband penetration reached 18.4% of the population - a large increase from 12.3% a year before, but still below the EU27 average of 20.1%.

Participation in the Knowledge Society

It is encouraging to note from the recently published CSO statistics that there continues to be a steady growth in the numbers of people participating in the Knowledge society – as evidenced by the increases in the numbers of computers in the home, the numbers – of all ages – using the internet and the strong growth in the number of people using on-line public services.

Supporting Programmes

Subhead I- Information Society and eInclusion

SUBHEAD I – Information Society and eInclusion

2007 Revised Estimate €000	2007 Provisional Outturn €000	2008 Revised Estimate €000
3,000	2,767	3,000

€3m has been allocated for the funding of measures to foster eInclusion. The main mechanism to achieve this is the ASC (Access, Skills and Content) Initiative. The purpose of the ASC Initiative is to assist voluntary, not-for-profit organisations and service providers target those who are at greatest risk of being left behind in the move to the Information Society.

2007 Outputs

In 2007 the initiative was directed at target groups including older people, those in disadvantage, the unemployed, and people with disabilities. Project promoters were asked to focus on digital content and skills development. Ninety (90) projects were fully or partially funded from the 116 Applications which were received. All applicants to this grant fund were thoroughly examined and evaluated according to a set of standardised criteria.

These projects covered a range of measures specifically aimed at addressing eInclusion objectives. Most projects entailed training – which was provided at a range of different levels to suit different needs – including some innovative approaches, some entailed facilitating access to technologies and other projects had a mix of access and skills elements.

The successful implementation of ASC in 2007 builds on the success of previous years.

2008 Targets

The Department is currently preparing a call for proposals for 2008. This involves identifying what the key priorities should now be and how best to administer this scheme this year. When this is done applications will be invited and proposed projects will be assessed on their merits against the stated criteria.

A decision has already been made that some resources will be allocated this year to broaden the scope of focus to include technologies other than computers, particularly mobile phones. Funding will be targeted at the areas where we see the greatest need and potential for beneficial impact.

Increased participation in the information or knowledge society is beneficial in several ways. Benefits for citizens occur from the use of knowledge society technologies – such as computers, the internet or other means. These allow people to enjoy greater convenience, avail of easier and more efficient ways of doing things or do things they could not previously do – and often at much reduced cost – e.g. using eMail or other on-line communications. It is also beneficial in terms of increased productivity, better use of time – and greater use of on-line public services which also facilitates new efficiencies and reduced service provision costs.

Information Society Policy Unit (ISPU)

Estimate of Annual Staffing Cost

Grade	Average Salary	No. in Grade	Average Cost
PO	91,070	1	91,070
AP	70,436	2	140,872
HEO	49,555	2	99,110
AO	43,379	1	43,379
EO	37,549	1	37,549
CO	28,445	2	56,889
Total		9	468,869 + PRSI at relevant rates.

Non-Staff Costs (based on 2007 actuals)*

T&S	26,400
Entertainment	1,500
Training	13,500
Advertising	10,000
Publications	6,500
Telecoms	6,600
Total	64,500

* Note: These figures are based on the overall cost for the ISPU. It is not possible to distinguish between costs in relation to the various functions of the Unit.