



Deputy Coveney,  
 Leinster House,  
 Kildare Street,  
 Dublin 2.

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

25 February 2008

Mr Simon Coveney TD  
 Leinster House  
 Kildare Street  
 Dublin 2

Ref: FOI/0007/2008

Dear Deputy Coveney,

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003 for access to records held by this Department relating to projects to construct electricity interconnection with Wales and North West Europe.

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.

The majority of documents that fall under this request relate to the development of an interconnector between Ireland and Wales by Eirgrid, under the regulatory oversight of the CER. Many aspects of this project have yet to be finalised and access to a lot of the documents has been denied as they relate to a deliberative process (Section 20). Access has also been denied to some documents as they contain commercially sensitive information that could prejudice the outcome of the current tendering process in which Eirgrid is engaged (Section 27). Finally, documents which were prepared for Government meetings and correspondence with the Department's legal advisors have been withheld under Sections 19 and 22 respectively.

I wish to advise you that, if for any reason you are not satisfied with the outcome of your request, you are entitled to seek a review of the case by appealing the decision to this Department's FOI Internal Review Board. To appeal, you need to write to Mr. Frank O'Brien, FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, 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 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 and a reduced fee of €25 applies if you are covered by a Medical Card.

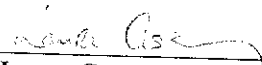
If claiming a reduced application fee, the request must also be accompanied by

- 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, Energy & Natural Resources".

On receipt of the fee, an acknowledgement letter will be sent to you outlining details of when you can expect a decision on your appeal, and the contact details of the person handling the appeal.

Yours sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Casey  
Electricity and Gas Regulation Division

Record No.	Brief Description & Date of Record	File Ref.	No. of Pages	Grant/refuse/part-grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act
1	Minutes of Project Liaison Group Meeting 07/02/08	ELEC 634	3	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
2	Monthly Report for Project Liaison Group Meeting - January 2008	ELEC 634	4	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
3	Minutes of Project Liaison Group Meeting 10/01/08	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
4	Monthly Report for Project Liaison Group Meeting - December 2007	ELEC 634	8	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
5	Minutes of Project Liaison Group Meeting 05/12/07	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
6	Monthly Report for Project Liaison Group Meeting - November 2007	ELEC 634	6	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
7	Minutes of Project Liaison Group Meeting 08/11/07	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
8	Monthly Report for Project Liaison Group Meeting - October 2007	ELEC 634	5	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
9	Minutes of Project Liaison Group Meeting 01/10/07	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
10	Minutes of Project Liaison Group Meeting 06/09/07	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
11	Minutes of Project Liaison Group Meeting 02/08/07	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
12	Minutes of Project Liaison Group Meeting 05/07/07	ELEC 634	1	Refuse	Sections 20 and 27
13	Letter from Department to the Attorney General re: Drafting of Electricity Regulation (EirGrid) (Amendment) Bill 10/01/08	ELEC 634	1	Grant	
14	General Scheme of Bill	ELEC 634	1	Refuse	Section 19
15	Government Decision - Electricity Regulation (Eirgrid) (Amendment) Bill 18/12/07	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Section 19

16	Memo for Government - Electricity Regulation (EirGrid) (Amendment) Bill	ELEC 634	6	Refuse	Section 19
17	Regulatory Impact Assessment - Electricity Regulation (EirGrid) (Amendment) Bill	ELEC 634	6	Refuse	Section 19
18	Email between Eirgrid and Department re. Eirgrid's Borrowing limit 05/11/07	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Section 27
19	Letter from EirGrid to Department re. Eirgrid Borrowing limit, 01/10/07	ELEC 634	5	Refuse	Section 27
20	Letter from Department to Attorney General re: Advice on legal issues in relation to the East West Electricity Interconnector 22/08/07	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Section 22
21	Draft decision of EU Commission on 2007 TEN-E applications December 2007	ELEC 634A	7	Refuse	Section 20
22	Letter from Department to EU Commission re: Application for TEN-E Financial Aid by EirGrid plc, Ireland 05/09/07	ELEC 634A	2	Grant	
23	Letter from EirGrid re: Application for TEN-E Financial Aid - undated	ELEC 634A	2	Grant	
24	Application Form Part A for TEN-E Financial Aid	ELEC 634A	23	Grant	
25	Application Form Part B for TEN-E Financial Aid	ELEC 634A	28	Part Grant	Section 20 and 27
26	Email re: Planning issues from CER 29/01/08 replying to Department's email of 24/01/08	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Section 20

27	Report of meeting between Department and Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government on planning issues 21/01/08	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Section 20
28	Overview note on planning issues	ELEC 634	3	Refuse	Section 20
29	Internal Memo re: meeting between Department and Imera Power	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Section 27
30	Report of meeting between Department and Department of Finance re: financing options for interconnector 24/01/08	ELEC 634	1	Refuse	Section 20
31	Report of meeting between Department, CER and EirGrid re: financing options for interconnector 23/11/07	ELEC 634	3	Refuse	Section 20
32	Report of meeting between Department and Department of Finance re: financing options for interconnector 09/08/07	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Section 20
33	Information note for Minister 09/11/2007	ELEC 634	2	Refuse	Section 20



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

5<sup>th</sup> February, 2008

Deputy Simon Coveney,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare St.,  
Dublin 2

FOI/0007/2008

Dear Deputy Coveney,

I refer to the Freedom of Information request received in this office on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 along with the associated fee.

The officer handling your request will be Ms Laura Casey, Electricity & Gas Regulation Division, Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, 29 – 31 Adelaide Rd., Dublin 2. He can be contacted at 01 6783130.

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 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.

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, Energy & 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, Energy & 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,

Mary Rabbitte  
FOI Unit  
PH: 01 6782903

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

Please address this request to relevant FOI Contact

Please use **BLOCK** letters

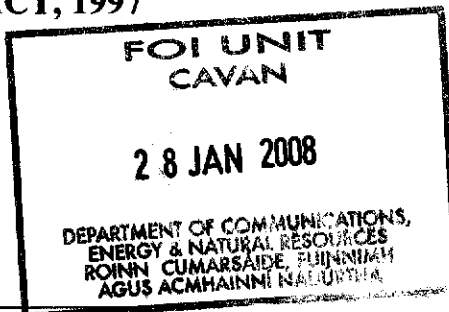
**Details of Applicant**

Surname: Coverey TD

First Name: Simon

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

(PP Corner Quinn)



Telephone Number(s)

**OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

Home : \_\_\_\_\_

Date FOI request Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: (01) 618 3753

Identity Verified: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Consent Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

(PP) 618 3755

**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 non-routine documentation (involving grades PO and above) since 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007 relating to projects to construct electricity interconnection with Wales and North-West Europe; including (but not restricted to) the timetable of the project to deliver an interconnector with Wales by 2012, the possibility of fast-tracking this project, the timescale and priority assigned to the interconnector with North West Europe, and any correspondence between the Department and Girvinid on these matters.

Please sign here: Simon Cerney TD Date: 24/01/08