Freedom of Information Unit,

Dear Sir/Madam,

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, I wish to request access to the following information held by your department:

A breakdown of all expenses, including overnight expenses, claimed by each civilian driver employed by the Department in 2011 (from when ministerial drivers were abolished), 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Please relate the drivers expenses to the assigned minister he/she drives. Please also state the salary of each driver in each of those years.

I would like to receive the requested information via emailed attachment to and also hard copy via post to the above address.

I would appreciate if formal correspondence could also be conducted via email.

I am happy to discuss any aspect of the above insofar as it would help to clarify anything or to make the process as efficient as possible.

If you need to clarify anything I am contactable at [removed] at the above email address.

Yours sincerely,
Dear,

I refer to your request which was received by this office on 28/09/2015 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this FOI body. Your request sought:

A breakdown of all expenses, including overnight, claimed by each civilian driver employed by the Department in 2011(from when ministerial drivers were abolished) 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The decision maker handling your request is Mr. Brian Walsh, Finance and Corporate Affairs Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29-31 Adelaide Rd, Dublin D02 X285 and he can be contacted at 01 6782423. A final decision on your request would normally be sent to you within 4 weeks, where a week is defined as 5 working days excluding the weekend and public holidays. This means that you can expect a decision letter to issue not later than 27/10/2015.

There are some limited situations under the FOI Act which could mean that the period for a final decision may be longer than this 4 week period. If this occurs in the case of your request, you will be advised promptly in writing setting out the reason and the new decision date.

Should our final decision not reach you on time, please feel free to contact the decision maker named above to discuss any problems that may have arisen. If you have not heard from us once the allotted time has expired, you are automatically entitled to appeal 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. The review is a full and new examination of the matter carried out by a more senior member of staff.

In the event that you need to request such a review, you can do so by writing to FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd, Cavan, H12 A8H7, Co Cavan or alternatively by sending an e-mail to FOI.UNIT@dcern.gov.ie. You should state that you are seeking this review because an initial decision was not sent to you within the time allowed for a response. In that event, you would normally have 4 weeks (after the initial decision should have been sent to you) in which to make the appeal. Consideration will be given to late applications in appropriate circumstances.

Please note this Department has a policy of posting a summary of all non personal FOI Requests to the Department website.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Brady
FOI Unit
19th October 2015

Re: FOI request FOI/2015/113

Dear

I refer to the above request and subsequent correspondence which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this body:

A breakdown of all expenses, including overnight expenses, claimed by each civilian driver employed by the Department in 2011 (from when ministerial drivers were abolished), 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Please relate the drivers expenses to the assigned minister he/she drives. Please also state the salary of each driver in each of those years.

I made a final decision to grant your request today.

You have sought access to the records by email and accordingly, a copy of the records is now enclosed. Please note that since the 1st January 2010 to date the salary of a civilian driver is €631.75 per week.

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you can make an appeal in relation to this matter, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan or by e-mail to FOI.UNIT@dconr.gov.ie.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays, however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior
member of staff and the decision will be communicated to you within 3 weeks.

Please note that the application fee for an appeal is currently €30.00. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money postal order, or personal cheque made payable to the 'Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources'.

The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 01 6782423.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Walsh
Finance and Corporate Affairs Division
Minister White (Term of office July 2014 to date)

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Former Minister, Pat Rabbitte TD (Term of office March 2011 to July 2014)

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Former Minister of State, Fergus O Dowd, TD (Term of office March 2011 to July 2014)

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