Hi,

Under the Freedom of Information Act, could I get access to all correspondence received by Minister Alex White concerning Eircode in the last three months, and any replies to that correspondence.

Can I also get all records relating to a survey carried out for the Department regarding the use and/or knowledge of Eircode by the public.

If possible, I would like these records in electronic format.

I can be contacted directly at

Regards,
24th November 2015

Re: FOI request – Our Ref - FOI/2015/116a

Dear

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this Department:

“All correspondence received by Minister Alex White concerning Eircode in the last three months, and any replies to that correspondence.”

I, Aisling Nic Bhrádaigh, have now made a final decision to part grant your request.

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, Elm House, Cavan or by e-mail to foi.unit@dcenr.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 appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 016782190.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling Nic Bhrádaigh
### FOI Request Reference: FOI/2015/116a

#### Schedule of Records and Summary of Decision Making

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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Minister White,

Congratulations on getting the legislation through the Dáil and Seanad allowing the national postcode system to progress. Unfortunately with the change of launch date to the 13th July, I will not be able to attend the launch event, but wish you and the team good luck for the day.

I know the Capita team have worked very hard along with all of our subcontractors to accommodate the various changes in the date and demonstrated flexibility with all aspects of the launch and operational readiness.

However we still do not have an agreement with regard to the issue of delay costs, any supporting documentation or commercial cover by way of a change control with only days to go. At our meeting on the 28th May I raised this, and it was agreed that this would be reviewed by Mark Griffin. We were further advised that we would get a clear position from you with regard to the treatment of our reasonable delay costs. Please can I ask that you intervene to remedy this situation as a matter of urgency?

We in Capita have continued in good faith to support the objective of launching the programme in spite of not having these issues resolved. I would prefer that the team is entirely focused on the successful launch and operational readiness for Eircode, rather than having to concern themselves with the dispute resolution process as indicated in one of the few responses we have had back on the issue.

Given the significant effort put in to date, I hope this can be resolved within hours so that we can all focus on the positive launch of Eircode next week.

Yours sincerely,

Vic

Vic Gysin
Joint Chief Operating Officer
Capita plc

Mobile: [Redacted]
Office: [Redacted]
email: [Redacted]
Post: 2nd Floor, 71 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, SW1H 0XA
Website: www.capita.co.uk

This email is security checked and subject to the disclaimer on web-page: http://www.capita.co.uk/email-disclaimer.aspx
Minister Alex White TD,
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,
29-31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2.

Dear Minister White,

We note your recent response to our letter of 9th June about testimony given by your officials in support of Eircode.

Your assertion that our ‘allegations’ are ‘unsubstantiated’ is bizarre. We wrote to you because your officials Mr Eamon Molloy and Ms Patricia Cronin told the Joint Oireachtas Committee on 19th November and stated in correspondence with them (inter alia):

- ‘...we had reasonably frequent contact with the various companies involved, including significant players in the FTAI...’
- (Capita Plc) ‘...have met with the FTAI on numerous occasions in order to explain the rationale and benefits of the design adopted...’

These, and other assertions by your officials to justify the abandonment of the 2006 Postcode Board recommendations, are simply false. No doubt Mr Molloy and Ms Cronin can cite the details of the contacts above to substantiate your position.

You suggest that a ‘constructive debate’ has taken place. There has been no debate, no engagement, and no consultation with industry stakeholders since 2006. That consultation nine years ago was about an entirely different postcode. The parties to that 2006 consultation have not gone away, and can substantiate this.

More than any other sector in Ireland, parcel operators are aware of the problems of non-unique and ambiguous addresses in Ireland. The postcode project was a chance to provide a layer of structure and order in Irish addressing, where there is none at present. The Postcode Board recognised nine years ago that a hierarchical postcode could do this. A random postcode cannot. While Eircode will provide a unique identity to addresses in a database, it will not assist in finding those addresses on the ground. FTA Ireland members want and need a postcode more than anyone. Eircode is not it. Layering randomness on top of ambiguity is most foolhardy.

Following the introduction of Local Property tax, the Revenue without fanfare, and at little identifiable cost, introduced a unique property identifier. There is no material difference between this number and an Eircode, yet no one would seriously argue that this would have functioned as a postcode. Functionally, Eircode is no better than Revenue’s unique identifier.

Frontier Economics prepared a report for COMREG1 in May which assessed the size of the parcel industry and its constituent players. It values it at approximately €500m per annum. FTA Ireland parcel companies have roughly estimated that a structured postcode in Ireland would save 10%, or €50m per annum on delivery costs to

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1 Frontier Economics "The packets and parcels sector in Ireland" May 2015
consumers. This cost will not be saved with a random code like Eircode. This means Eircode will impose a ‘rent’ on every Irish household of €28 per year, every year, in addition to the cost to industry of buying the code.

We believe the fact that Eircode will impose this ‘rent’ on the parcel sector, and the costs of database access, together constitute an unlawful protectionist measure for An Post. For this reason we have requested the EU Commission to consider the legality of Eircode on competition grounds.

Speaking at the second stage debate on the Communications Bill on 11th June, you said Nightline ‘Ireland’s biggest independent logistics firm’ endorsed the code. You will know from the COMREG report that FTA Ireland members carry almost 50% of Ireland’s parcels by value (more than An Post), and 35% by volume. Nightline, though a good company, is a minority bit-player. We speak for the industry; not you, not An Post, and not the sole operator you have found to endorse this ‘postcode.’ Assertions to the contrary are untrue. We believe that you and your Department, though their official COMREG contacts, have been aware for a long time about the market size and position of FTA Ireland members in the parcel sector.

You also told the Dáil that ‘Eircodes will be fully integrated with An Post’s mail-sorting systems.’ The Eircode Design Report completed for your Department last year states that the Routing Key will be used by An Post for ‘manual sortation’ only (less than 20% of sortation) and the Unique Identifier will not be used by An Post at all.

This same Design Report acknowledges on page 52 that a randomly allocated code cannot resolve non-unique locations, further contradicting your Dáil contribution on 11th June.

We told the Joint Committee and your Department last November that if the State adopted an unstructured postcode, industry would find its own solutions for location and navigation. This process is already under way. Those businesses which interact directly with consumers are being forced to adopt proprietary solutions to the problems you have failed to address with this ‘postcode.’

Your Department’s treatment of this debate has been characterised by misleading information from you, and untruthful information from your officials. Your most recent letter suggested, as did your officials in the Joint Committee, that FTA Ireland sought a UK-style postcode. Despite that fact that the UK code, approaching 60 years old, remains more functional that Eircode, we wanted a more modern code. Since you asked for our 5th November Joint Committee presentation, you know we stated that ‘Ireland should adopt a location-compatible or geo-based code for its national postcode,’ like the Fixed Grid postcode recommended by stakeholders to the Postcode Project Board in 2006.

Finally, on 11th June you cited the absence of ‘discrimination’ and ‘postcode ...ghettos’ in your commendation to the Dáil of Eircode. To have secured, as social media report this week, the ‘A’ postcode district for your constituents in the affluent suburbs of South Dublin and North Wicklow is a political master-stroke. It may even get you re-elected to the 32nd Dáil. It is also cynicism and political opportunism at its worst. Postcodes are no longer about post. Postal mail as we know it will be gone in 5-10 years. To introduce a postcode in 2015 that identifies postal addresses only is an absurdity, and a folly greater than any 19th Century construction of the same name. We can only hope it doesn’t last as long.

Yours sincerely

Neil McDonnell
General Manager – FTA Ireland

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2 Postcode Management Licence Holder National Postcode System Design Report May 2014
From: Gary Delaney [mailto:gary@gpsireland.ie]
Sent: 28 July 2015 13:15
To: Seana McGearty
Subject: RE: Minister Coveney - Postcode Tender

Seana,

As stated, I have been advised that Minister White undertook to deal with a list of specific issues raised by me and passed to him by Minister Coveney at a Cabinet meeting.

Minister White has not dealt with any of those matters and has not corresponded with me on them either.

Is this to be added to the already long list of deliberate lies being promulgated by Minister White in relation to the whole matter of postcodes?

I have also been made aware of a conversation between Minister White and another FG deputy where my name was impugned.

Minister White should be aware that these matters will all be exposed and dealt with in time.

Gary Delaney
MSc (Nav Tech), FRIN, FIS, MNI, Ls NS (Ret’d)
GPS/GNSS, Survey/Mapping, Navigation & Positioning Consultant
From: Seana McGerty [mailto:Seana.McGearty@dcern.gov.ie]
Sent: 28 July 2015 12:58
To: 'gary@gpsireland.ie'
Cc: Minister White; Eunan McKinney
Subject: RE: Minister Coveney - Postcode Tender

Dear Mr Delaney,

I refer to your email of 15th July and subsequent email of 17th July last addressed to the Minister. As previously indicated to you in direct correspondence, the Minister has dealt with the issues you raised with him, and he does not propose to repeat his responses in further correspondence.

Kind regards,
Seana

Seana McGerty | Private Secretary | Minister Alex White’s Office
Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin, D02 X285, Ireland
www.dcern.gov.ie | @dcern
T:+353 1 678 2004 | LH:+353 1 700 2121 | M:+353 87 66 81 671 | E: seana.mcgearty@dcern.gov.ie

From: Gary Delaney [mailto:gary@gpsireland.ie]
Sent: 17 July 2015 08:36
To: Minister White; Seana McGerty; Eunan McKinney
Subject: FW: Minister Coveney - Postcode Tender
Importance: High

Please confirm that you are dealing with this matter and will respond in prompt manner?

Gary Delaney
----Original Message-----
From: Gary Delaney [mailto:gary@gpsireland.ie]
Sent: 15 July 2015 14:39
To: 'Minister White'; 'Seana McGerty'; 'Eunan.McKinney@dcern.gov.ie'
Subject: Minister Coveney - Postcode Tender
Importance: High

Minister,

I have been advised my Minister Coveney's Office that he brought matters relating to the National Postcode tender that I raised in a meeting with him to the attention of the Cabinet at a subsequent Cabinet meeting.
I am also to understand that the list of matters to be resolved was handed to you at that meeting and you undertook to deal with them.

I wish clarify as to when you intend dealing with those very specific matters as 8 months has now elapsed since they were first raised?

Gary Delaney
MSc (Nav Tech), FRIN. FIE, RNI. Lt HS [Ret’d]
GPS/GNSS, Survey/Mapping, Navigation & Positioning Consultant

GPS House, Currans, Cork, IRELAND
Local Codes for mailing purposes: URL:11-08K | URL:14-8YK
Tel: + 353 21 4832590

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b’fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d’fhéadfadh bheidh próbháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amhain atá an t-eolas. Mura bhfuil tusa agus an t-e a bhfrí an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó biodh a hiós agat nach gcaídear nochtadh, cóipseáil, scoipseadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más tri earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do tholl é, an t-e ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnitear leis seo freisin nár aims odrú vifreas sa phost seo tar éis a scansadh.
Darren McArdle

From: Minister White
Sent: 06 August 2015 10:34
To: 'Brian.ODomhnaill@Oireachtas.ie'
Subject: Eircode

Senator Brian Ó Domhnaill
Brian.ODomhnaill@Oireachtas.ie

Ref: GG 2015 202

Dear Seantor,

I refer to your recent correspondence of the 14th July 2015 regarding the recent Motion passed by a Waterford Council Plenary Meeting on the introduction of Eircodes in Ireland.

Ireland is the only country in the OECD that does not have a national post code system. My Department commenced the procurement process for a National Postcode System in 2011. An open and competitive procurement process was conducted in accordance with Department of Finance and EU procurement frameworks.

During that process a range of options for the postcode structure were evaluated. The Eircode design chosen has been tailored to meet the needs of Ireland’s addressing structure in that approximately 35% of Irish addresses are non-unique and many properties can have multiple forms of address. The Eircode will provide a geo location, sourced from Ordnance Survey Ireland, for postal address points that will assist with navigation and will link with online maps. The design criteria that was approved by Government for our National Postcode System in April 2014 reflects the needs for both private and public stakeholders.

The Government formally launched Eircodes, the national postcode system for Ireland on 13th July 2015. Every Irish address, residential and business, will be sent a notification by post with the eircode enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Alex White T.D.
Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
July 2015

1. Caroline Green
2. Rúnaí Aire

Please see attached for Minister's approval and signature, a reply to correspondence from Senator Brian Ó Domhnaill regarding Irish post codes.

Regards,

James Allen
Postcodes Division
Patricia Cronin
Post codes

Representation Type: General

Please see the attached representations which have been received from Brian O'Domhnaill, Brian.ODomhnaill@Oireachtas.ie, regarding Motion to scrap Eircode from Waterford County Council.

It would be appreciated if you could investigate this matter and prepare a draft reply (for Minister's signature) as soon as possible.

In accordance with the Department's Customer Service Charter a reply must issue within 20 working days, therefore I would ask that the reply reach this office no later than 04/08/2015 so that there is sufficient time for clearance by the Minister.

Please quote our reference number GG-2015202 in your response.

Please save your reply as GG-2015202 and send a copy of same to me for Minister's signature.

Minister's General Office
15/07/2015
From: Minister White  
To: Brian.ODomhnaill@Oireachtas.ie  
Subject: RE: Eircode

Dear Senator ODomhnaill

On behalf of Mr. Alex White T.D, Minister Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of 14 July 2015.

I will ensure the contents are brought to the Minister’s attention.

Yours sincerely

Grainne Geraghty

Grainne Geraghty | Minister White’s Office

Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources  
29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, Ireland  
www.dcenr.gov.ie | @dcenr  
T:+353 1 6782007 | E:grainne.geraghty@dcenr.gov.ie

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From: Brian O'Domhnaill [mailto:Brian.ODomhnaill@Oireachtas.ie]  
Sent: 14 July 2015 16:37  
To: Alex White  
Subject: Eircode

Dear Minister,

I am enclosing copy of motion to scrap Eircode which was put down by Cllr Eddie Mulligan and which was unanimously passed at last weeks Waterford Council plenary meeting.

Can you assess the motion, set out below, and revert with your considered response. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

SENATOR BRIAN Ó DOMHNAILL
Fianna Fáil Seand Spokesperson on Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Tel: 074 9165466  
Fax: 0749180614

Leinster House  
Tel: 01 6184057  
Web: www.briandonmhaill.ie
MOTION TO SCRAP EIRCODE AS THE NATIONAL POSTCODE (Thursday 9th July 2015 Waterford Council Plenary Meeting)

“...This Council calls on Minister Alex White TD and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to scrap the controversial and confusing EIRCODE design. Furthermore, this council asks that a free and open tender, that does not exclude small business, be held for the design of a modern, smart, structured postcode with integrated geolocation (GPS) data. This council calls for a postcode design that is simple and inexpensive to adopt and maintain for government, citizens, businesses and tourists alike. This council also calls for a postcode that offers maximum assistance to all our emergency services by providing a single code format to help guide them quickly to both dwelling and non-dwelling incidents such as road traffic accidents. It is proposed that the system currently in use on locations of ring buoys approved by Irish Water Safety and by HSE Emergency planning for the Southern Area and used by Waterford Council for water asset location be examined as an interim solution”.

Proposed Cllr Eddie Mulligan

Seconded Cllr Mary Butler

Notes

The 2014 An Post Annual Report states that all service quality targets were achieved so while Eircode may be slightly useful to An Post as a Post Code System where 98% efficiency is claimed, it will be totally useless to the rest of the people of Ireland, and at a contract cost indicated to be in the region of €27m and implementation cost of upwards towards €100m. As Eircode only applies to properties where mail is delivered to, there are literally hundreds of thousands of sites/premises where citizens and visitors visit, and congregate, on a daily basis, right across the country, will not have an Eircode. In addition, many other industry sectors, including essential Health and Safety and Emergency Service, will be trying to access hundreds of locations that have not been addressed by Eircode.

Eircode will in fact be redundant, before its launch, for many elements of the Tourism, Sports, Industry, Education, Marine, Farming and Forestry sectors in Ireland. Only buildings to which An Post deliver directly will get an Eircode. Some of the Waterford City and County essential attractions that will not have an Eircode include;

- The People’s Park
- None of the berths or marinas situated on the river front, including Frank Cassin Wharf where visiting Cruise Liners may want mail or couriered materials to be delivered
- The Clock Tower, Waterford’s most photographed structure
- The Metal man in Tramore
The lighthouse in Dunmore East

- Only one building in the WIT Campus - the Admin Building where mail is delivered and none of the others despite the fact we are aspiring for Technological University status across a number of campuses
- Beach areas and accesses in Tramore will not have an Eircode
- Many GAA pitches and Sporting grounds that do not have an office and are not open daily will not have an Eircode

As Eircode is not supported by latitude and longitude system, supported by all modern makes of GPS, and this will make it difficult for people and tourists to use in their daily lives. A coordinate system that includes latitude and longitude has been in existence for literally hundreds of years is the basis for many International postcode systems and is the very reason that postcodes are used for destinations in navigation systems in hundreds of countries. When I tour other continental countries, if I have trouble finding an address on the GPS, inserting the postcode always delivers me right to the required location. In this modern day a link to geographical locations is a necessity with a proper postal code where every building will have a unique code.

Eircode has been widely criticised including recently by a competent international association, The Freight Transport Association of Ireland, which indicated that it will be ‘completely useless’ to their members due to the non-sequential nature that is not seen worldwide and will make delivery logistical planning extremely difficult.

If current system is implemented without the ability to link to GPS mapping systems it will not support the economic development and job growth that a modern postcode system has the potential to do. Here in Waterford, as we try to develop our Tourism and ICT Industries, a geographically integrated post code system is vital otherwise there is no benefit to us as a county for a €27m plus investment. For all these reasons Eircode implementation should be halted immediately.

Cllr Eddie Mulligan FF (Waterford City)

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Beartas riomhphoist an Oireachtais agus séanadh.
http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasriomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/
Minister Alex White, TD
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Dear Minister

Ireland's New National Postcode System

Please accept my congratulations on the launch yesterday of Eircode, the new national postcode system. As you precisely put it in the Oireachtas “Fundamentally, this project involves delivering a critical piece of national infrastructure which will secure benefits”. As the postcode becomes established, I have no doubt but that these benefits will be widely shared and understood.

The benefit of postcodes to the effectiveness of research and analysis is well established in all other OECD countries. The ESRI, along with our colleagues across the Irish social science research community, have therefore been looking forward to being able to do likewise and so produce truly comparable findings from databases with postcodes. Or to put it more bluntly, researchers in the social sciences are delighted that we need no longer have to explain to colleagues internationally why Ireland lacks this crucial piece of infrastructure which has been discussed for the past two decades – and not just a decade as reported in the media! And as a member of the oversight board for users of Eurostat data (ESAC), I am glad that Ireland will be able to have national statistics grounded in what are regarded as best practice: unique identifiers for individuals and businesses that are also linked to locations.

Now that there is a National Postcode Database, there will therefore be a wide range of databases containing an Eircode. I understand that safeguards and protections are in place to ensure its integrity especially in regard to data protection. I would hope that there would be no reason they should be any obstacle to established research methodologies utilising databases containing Eircodes.

Rather much beneficial research undertaken by ESRI, including projects commissioned by Government Departments and/or their agencies, will benefit from the practicalities of how our research practices are adapted to using the Eircode. In this context, I am concerned that your Department would:

• Clarify application of privacy provisions attaching to Eircode in relation to economic and social research.
• Confirm that the ‘Code of Practise’ which must be approved will ensure that the potential benefits to quality, accuracy and effectiveness of research in Ireland are realised.
• Avoid unnecessary additional research costs.
In the case of costs, we would see it as being very important that there be a reduced licence fee for researcher access to the Eircode databases, where the research carried out by not-for-profit academic researchers for public dissemination. Making the databases widely available for public good research is essential to achieve many benefits in the areas of public health, infrastructure planning and evaluation and ICT adoption, to name just a few. Even private sector data providers often provide discounted licensing terms to such researchers, but the case for a publicly-funded data infrastructure such as this is even stronger.

ESRI has a well developed understanding of how to achieve a practical balance of privacy and public interest in economic and social research both from working within our own data protection rules and co-authoring research with colleagues in economic research institutes elsewhere utilising databases with postcodes. My colleagues, Dr Sean Lyons and Dr Dorothy Watson would be very happy to meet with your colleagues to explain in more depth what is required. I enclose a copy of our letter to your colleague, Mr Eamonn Molloy, in September 2013.

Finally my renewed congratulations on getting this across the line – I know that this was not an easy task. As a researcher, I took particular satisfaction in seeing this progress occur in the week when I stand down as Director of the ESRI. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank you for your Department’s support of our energy and communications research over the years – an exemplar to other areas of government. I would also like to thank you for your personal attendance at events in which I have been involved in recent years.

Kind regards,

Frances Ruane

Director

cc Mark Griffin, Eamonn Molloy
Ms. Frances Ruane
The Economic and Social Research Institute,
Whitaker Square,
Sir John Rogerson’s Quay,
Dublin,
D02 K138.

September 2015

Dear Frances,

I refer to your correspondence of 14 July 2015 regarding the new National Postcode System – Eircode.

Firstly, I appreciate and would like to thank ESRI for your long standing support for the National Postcode project. As you point out the introduction of Eircodes will, over time, give rise to significant benefits and opportunities to the public and private sectors. Having a unique Eircode for all postal addresses in the state will enable organisations to improve existing services, develop new service offerings, improve efficiencies in logistics and facilitate better planning and spatial analysis capabilities.

With respect to the application of privacy provisions for use of Eircodes, The Communications Regulation (Postal Services) (Amendment) Bill 2015 has recently been enacted. This legislation has put in place a statutory data protection framework for Eircodes to ensure that the public interest is satisfied in the undertaking of legitimate postcode activities, particularly in relation to the activities of the postcode contractor and value added re-sellers. End users of postcode enabled databases will be subject to the data protection acts, where they are relevant.

Eircode has published a Code of Practice that outlines how the Eircode database is made available to the public and how its agents will do this in line with existing Data Protection legislation.

In terms of costs, Eircode have developed a number of licensing types and associated pricing models that should encourage usage with low-entry costs for users of the Eircode database. Further information on the licensing and pricing, along with the Code of Practice is available on the Eircode website www.eircode.ie.
As your term as Director has come to an end, I would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment to research, your contributions to public policy making in Ireland over the past nine years and for your valued role as Director of ESRI. I wish you continued success for the future.

Thank you for your interest and support for this project.

Yours sincerely

Alex White T.D.
Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
Mr. Eddie Ruane  
Meetings Administrator  
Waterford City and County Council  
City Hall  
The Mall  
Waterford  
X91 PK15

October 2015  
DM 2015 219

Dear Mr. Ruane

I refer to your correspondence from 21st September 2015 regarding a motion that was adopted at the July meeting of the Comeragh District of Waterford City and County Council. It is very important to note that with the introduction of Eircodes, addresses are not changing and people do not need to change the address that they normally use. The Eircode which is unique to each address should be added to the address that you normally use.

The most comprehensive address database available in the country is the postal address database, which is owned by Geo-directory, a subsidiary company of An Post and Ordinance Survey Ireland.

Eircode used the addresses from this database in the Eircode finder and for delivery of the Eircode letter. These are the postal addresses as used by An Post. Some postal addresses include a post town and county that are different from the geographical county of the address. Whether one choses to use the postal address or another form of the address, such as the geographical address, it is important to note that the Eircode for the property in question does not change.

If you have any further queries regarding postal addresses please direct them to the customer service division of An Post at email: customer.service@anpost.ie or PH: 01 705 8242.

Yours sincerely

Alex White T.D.  
Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Our Ref: ER/MB

21st September 2015

Mr. Alex White,
Minister,
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,
29-31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin,
DO2 X285.

Dear Minister,

The following motion was adopted at the July meeting of the Comeragh District of Waterford City and County Council:

"To ask the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources to ensure that the current Eircode system not penalise Waterford people whose postal address is in a neighbouring county and that these people will be free to deal with public service obligations through Waterford City and County Council auspices and not that of a neighbouring county into the future. Furthermore to ask the minister to allow people to rectify the address to proper county addresses."

Yours sincerely,

Eddie Ruane
Meetings Administrator
Dear Mr. Ruane,

I refer to your recent correspondence of the 22nd July 2015 regarding the recent Motion adopted at the July meeting of Waterford City and County Council regarding the introduction of Eircodes in Ireland.

Ireland was the only country in the OECD that did not have a national post code system. My Department commenced the procurement process for a National Postcode System in 2011. An open and competitive procurement process was conducted in accordance with Department of Finance and EU procurement frameworks.

During that process a range of options for the postcode structure were evaluated. The Eircode design chosen has been tailored to meet the needs of Ireland’s addressing structure in that approximately 35% of Irish addresses are non-unique and many properties can have multiple forms of address. The Eircode will provide a geo location, sourced from Ordnance Survey Ireland, for postal address points that will assist with navigation and will link with online maps. The design criteria that was approved by Government for our National Postcode System in April 2014 reflects the needs for both private and public stakeholders.

The Government formally launched Eircodes, the national postcode system for Ireland on 13th July 2015.

Yours sincerely,

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Alex White T.D.
Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
Mr. Alex White, T.D.,
Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Dear Minister,

The following motion was adopted at the July meeting of Waterford City and County Council:

"This Council calls on Minister Alex White TD and the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources to scrap the controversial and confusing EIrcode design. Furthermore this Council asks that a free and open tender, that does not exclude small business, be held for the design of a modern, smart, structured postcode with integrated geolocation (GPS) data. This Council calls for a postcode design that is simple & inexpensive to adopt & maintain for government, citizens, businesses and tourists alike. This Council also calls for a postcode that offers maximum assistance to all our emergency services by providing a single code format to help guide them quickly to both dwelling and non dwelling incidents such as road traffic accidents. It is proposed that the system currently in use on locations of ring buoys approved by Irish Water Safety and by HSE Emergency planning for the Southern Area and used by Waterford Council for water asset location be examined as an interim solution'.

Yours sincerely,

Eddie Ruane
Meetings Administrator

Waterford City and County Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Phort Láirge, Halla na Cathrach, An Meal, Port Láirge

contact@waterfordcouncil.ie  Tel: 0761 10 20 20  www.waterfordcouncil.ie
Deputy Brendan Griffin
Brendan.Griffin@Oireachtas.ie

SW 2015 264

Dear Brendan,

I refer to your correspondence of 30 July 2015 to Minister Joe McHugh regarding your concerns about the Irish versions of placenames contained within the Eircode system.

Following a procurement process a ten-year contract with Capita Business Support Services was signed in December 2013 under which Capita will develop, roll-out and operate the national postcode system. The scope of the project did not include modifying existing English or Irish address databases, nor did it provide funding to translate all English postal addresses into Irish. Capita have produced bilingual promotional material, developed a bilingual Eircode website (www.eircode.ie), recruited bilingual staff in their call centre to take calls from members of the public in Irish and produced bilingual postcode notification letters being issued to all postal addresses in the State.

The provision of Irish language placenames in the Eircode Address Database (ECAD) is solely derived from the GeoDirectory database provided under license by An Post GeoDirectory (APG) to Capita. APG endeavours to include the verified official Irish translations of addresses within the database where available, using translations from Logainm and Ordnance Survey Ireland.

Logainm is liaising with APG to resolve any differences between their databases. To this end I understand a number of meetings have taken place and that information is being exchanged between APG and Logainm to resolve any discrepancies between their databases.

Additionally, I understand that APG and Logainm are working to develop a joint framework that will align the GeoDirectory database with the Logainm.ie Placenames database. This will provide a direct link between both databases whereby all newly translated Irish version placenames as provided by the Placenames Branch (Department of the Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs) will be made available in the GeoDirectory database and subsequently in the ECAD.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Alex White T.D.
Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
1. Caroline Green
2. Rúnaí Aire

Please see attached for Minister’s approval and signature, a reply to correspondence from Deputy Brendan Griffin regarding Eircodes.

Regards,

James Allen
Postcodes Division
Postcodes
Postcodes

Representation Type: General

Please see the attached representations which have been received from Brendan Griffin, brendan.griffin@cerachtas.ie, regarding Eircode and the Irish language.

It would be appreciated if you could investigate this matter and prepare a draft reply (for Minister’s signature) as soon as possible.

In accordance with the Department’s Customer Service Charter a reply must issue within 20 working days, therefore I would ask that the reply reach this office no later than 20/08/2015 so that there is sufficient time for clearance by the Minister.

Please quote our reference number SW-2015264 in your response.

Please save your reply as SW-2015264 and send a copy of same to me for Minister’s signature.

[Signature]
Minister's General Office
31/07/2015
Dear Deputy Griffin,

On behalf of the Minister of State for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Joe McHugh, T.D., I wish to thank you for your e-mail dated 30th July, 2015.

I have forwarded your correspondence for direct reply to the office of the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Alex White, T.D., who has responsibility in this area.

Le meas,

Noeleen Fagan
Private Secretary to Minister of State Joe McHugh | Minister of State’s Office
Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, D02 X285, Ireland
www.dcenr.ie | @dcenr
T:+353 1 631 3983 | E:noeleen.fagan@ahg.gov.ie

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Dear Karin OConor,

I would be grateful for your assistance with the following matter.

For the background to this controversy – see this article –
http://secure.web.cisco.com/1ydeDTQknj9Xhkvx1hXXLi7ywq5z8OlxweSLNDkiJKR_YErzQ4ST5bofaLZKGvBtRGpaxzDgG0Gr5a1YkwO6ELHcXR9TWzyg7P097-
It goes back to the abolishment of An Coimisiún Logainmneacha a few years ago – this body was responsible for the validation of Irish language place-names – it has since been replaced by a voluntary body (in fairness to Dinny McGinley as there was a vacuum left in a rush to be seen to abolish state boards etc) – this body is called An Coiste Logainmneacha. It is tasked with validating the names which are researched by a very small number of staff in An Brainse Logainmneacha,(1.5 people I think) - see this link for more details: http://www.ahg.gov.ie/ie/AnGhaeilge/AnBrainseLogainmneacha/

An Brainse Logainmneacha does not have sufficient resources to carry out the research in a timely fashion thus our current situation with Eircode.

On a wider issue when it comes to Irish language matters and policy, as you know, state departments and public bodies, often try and distance themselves from their statutory responsibilities with regard to serving Irish speakers by using excuses about costs, and/or that it is a matter for the Dept. of the Gaeltacht, Údarás na Gaeltachta or some other ‘Irish language body’.

In this instance the Dept. of Communications is most likely in breach of their own Irish language scheme – see http://tuarisc.ie/cas-laidir-ann-gur-sharaigh-an-roinn-cumarsaide-a-sceim-teanga-fein-i-gconspoid-eircode/

Many of the Irish language place-names of the townlands of County Kerry and other counties are not validated nearly a century after independence – see http://www.logainm.ie/ga/s?txt=ip:100005&cat=BF

The Gaeltacht ones are done throughout the country.

To conclude, what steps are being taken by the Department to ensure that the new postcode system is available in both official languages of the state?

Also, do you think that the current situation whereby there is an information gap and inaccuracies in respect of the Irish language version of many townlands is acceptable and is the Eircode project in compliance with the Irish language scheme agreed by the Department?

Also, what personnel resources are available to An Brainse Logainmneacha to carry out their research work in respect of the provision of validated Irish language place names, when will validated Irish language versions of the 2,729 townlands of County Kerry will be provided and what steps are being taken to ensure the provision of these place names in a timely fashion?

I would be most grateful for efforts to progress and rectify these matters.

Kind regards,

Brendan Griffin TD

Oireachtas email policy and disclaimer.
http://secure-weh.cisco.com/ljSgwSgbbkbhDHAurXDAS-c10pi9wXkvENYc3zZ3oEYq4HmrsHt01EbnJtH6Yekmad6BJ_UhTm0he29FL06GnlwDk018BBT9SeMgy
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