To whom it may concern:

I am making the following request under the Freedom of Information Act

I would like copies of all representations sent by Minister Alex White or his officials on behalf of constituents from ministerial office (by letter, email fax etc) to other Government Department since he was appointed last year.

I would also like copies of all representations sent by Minister Alex White or his officials on behalf of constituents from ministerial office (by letter, email fax etc) to other State bodies.

Please contact me if you would like any of the above clarified or if my request is outside the terms of the act or will incur significant search and retrieval fees.

Kind regards,
Re: FOI Request 2015-90

Dear

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 in relation to:

"copies of all representations sent by Minister Alex White or his officials on behalf of constituents from minister office (by letter, email fax etc) to other Government Department since he was appointed last year"

&

"copies of all representations sent by Minister Alex White or his officials on behalf of constituents from ministerial office (by letter, email fax etc) to other state bodies"

I have made the final decision to refuse your request in line with section 15 1 (c) and section 3 (c) of the FOI act:

15 1 (c): "In the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason of the number or nature of the records concerned or the nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of the records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned."

3 (c): "subject to subsection (12) the total amount of a charge under subsection (1) shall not exceed such amount as stands prescribed for the time being as the appropriate maximum amount for search and retrieval and copying",

Granting your request would cause a substantial and unreasonable interference and disruption to the work of this Department. Also the volume of documentation involved, the estimated cost on search, retrieval and copying would be above the further upper limit of which an FOI body can refuse to process a request unless the requester is prepared to refine the request to bring the fees below this limit. Having given you the opportunity to refine your request within reason i.e. a particular subject matter you have failed to do so.
In the event that you are unhappy with this decision you may appeal this it. In the event that you need to make such an appeal, 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@dcenr.gov.ie. Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks 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 01-6782180.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Clarke
Human Resources Division