From: Bridgette Smith
Sent: 02 June 2015 15:03
To: FOI UNIT
Subject: Freedom of Information Request
Categories: Filed

I wish to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, any correspondence between Denis O'Brien and Minister(s) Rabbitte and / or White since the start of 2014.

"Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail"
05/06/2015

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2015/54

Dear,

I refer to your request which was received by this office on 02/06/2015 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this FOI body. Your request sought:

Any correspondence between Denis O'Brien and Minister(s) Rabbitte and/or White since the start of 2014.

The decision maker handling your request is Mr Hugh Clarke, Human Resources Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2 and they can be contacted at 01 6782180. 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 30/06/2015.

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, Co Cavan or alternatively by sending an e-mail to FOI.UNIT@dcenr.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 the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources has a policy of posting a summary of all non-personal FOI requests and decisions to the Departments website.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Conaty
FOI Unit
22nd July 2015

Re: FOI Request 2015-54

Dear

I refer to the request you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this body.

I have made a final decision to fully-grant 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.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision. This explanation has the following parts:

1. a schedule of all records covered by your request;

2. an explanation of the relevant findings concerning access to records which have been granted;

3. a statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these three parts in turn.

1. Schedule of Records

A schedule of all of the records covered by your request is enclosed with this letter. It shows the documents that this Department considers relevant to your request. It also gives you a summary and overview of the decisions as a whole. The schedule describes each document, and indicates whether the document is released in full, released with deletions or not released. The schedule refers to the sections of the FOI Act which apply to prevent release. As to these documents, the schedule also provides brief reasons for the decision which supplement the fuller and more detailed explanation below.

Féiltear roimh comhfheagrás i nGaeilge
2. Findings, particulars and reasons for any decisions to deny access

I have redacted the telephone number of a third party on Record 31 and 2 under Section 37(1) of the Acts which states;

37.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a head shall refuse to grant a request under if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).

I have considered the public interest in making my decision and have concluded that the right to privacy of the individual concerned outweighs the public interest in releasing the afore-mentioned information.

3. Rights of Appeal

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, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan or by e-mail to FOI.Unit@deenr.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. 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record No.</th>
<th>Brief Description &amp; Date of Record</th>
<th>File Ref.</th>
<th>No. of Pages</th>
<th>Relevant facts</th>
<th>Findings/conclusions (Public Interest Considerations, If applicable)</th>
<th>Grant/refuse/part-grant</th>
<th>Basis of Refusal: Section of Act</th>
<th>Record edited/Identify deletions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Internal e-mail dated 13th February 2014 forwarding invitation from Denis O'Brien to Minister Rabbitte</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pages 1-2</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>External e-mail dated 28th February 2014 response to invite from Denis O'Brien</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pages 3-4</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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<td>Telephone number redacted</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>External e-mail 11th March 2014 from Sinead Walsh re broadband commission dinner</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pages 5-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>External e-mail 20th March 2014 from Sinead Walsh re broadband commission dinner</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pages 10-12</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>External e-mail March 2014 from Sinead Walsh 27th re broadband commission dinner</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Page 13</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hi Stephanie,

Invitation attached from Denis O'Brien for 22 & 23 March, hard copy received in the post also.

Regards
Siobhán

-----Original Message-----
From: Sinead Walsh [mailto:swalsh@communicorp.ie]
Sent: 13 February 2014 12:30
To: Minister Rabbitte
Subject:

Dear Slobhan,

Further to our phone conversation please see attached a soft copy of the letter delivered by hand this morning to Minister Rabbitte.

My mobile number is [REDACTED] and my direct dial number is 01 432 5903. Please feel free to give me a call at any stage if you have any further questions on this event.

I very much look forward to hearing from you soon,

With best wishes,

Sinead Walsh
Mr. Pat Rabbitte T.D.
Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Department for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

12 February 2014

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in my capacity as a member of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Digital Development. ITU and UNESCO set up the U.N. Broadband Commission for Digital Development in response to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's call to step up UN efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Commission was established in May 2010, five years after the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and ten years after the launch of the MDGs. The Commission aims to boost the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda and believes that expanding broadband access in every country is key to accelerating progress towards these goals by the target date of 2015. It defines practical ways in which countries — at all stages of development — can achieve this, in cooperation with the private sector.

The Broadband Commission meets twice a year and I am hosting the next meeting in Dublin on the 22 & 23 March 2014. We expect 80 – 100 delegates including President Kagame of Rwanda, Carlos Slim and government ministers from all over the world to join us in Dublin.

I would be delighted if you would join us for a welcome dinner on Saturday 22 March in Dublin Castle. The Commission's conference will take place on Sunday 23 March in The Shelbourne Hotel from 9am – 5.30pm and we plan to have to host another dinner on Sunday night in the Science Center in UCD. We would love if you could attend.

The Commission comprises of a high-powered community, including Government Ministers, CEO's of Global Telecoms companies, industry leaders, senior policy-makers, international agencies, academia and organizations concerned with development. Leaders in their field, they each believe strongly in a future based on broadband and offer rich insights and experience in how to deploy and use broadband networks and services to the benefit of communities and end-users. The Commission embraces a range of different perspectives in a multi-stakeholder approach to promoting the roll-out of broadband, as well as providing a fresh approach to UN and business engagement.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Denis O'Brien
Hi Sinead

Apologies for the delay in responding.

Minister Rabbitte has agreed to attend the Dinner on 22nd March and also the Conference on 23rd.

Regards

Stephanie

Stephanie Redmond
Diary Secretary to Minister Pat Rabbitte, T.D.
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2
Telephone: Adelaide Road Office – 01 678 2012
Leinster House – 01 700 21 98

-----Original Message-----
From: Sinead Walsh [mailto:swalsh@communincorp.ie]
Sent: 24 February 2014 21:40
To: Stephanie Redmond
Subject: RE: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

Hi Stephanie,
Just wanted to check if there is any update on this invitation?
Best wishes and thanks
Sinead

-----Original Message-----
From: Stephanie Redmond [mailto:Stephanie.Redmond@dcenr.gov.ie]
Sent: 13 February 2014 18:22
To: Sinead Walsh
Subject: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

Good Evening Sinead

On behalf of the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Mr Pat Rabbitte TD, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your mail below and attached correspondence from Mr Denis O'Brien.

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

Regards
-----Original Message-----
From: Sinead Walsh [mailto:swalsh@communicorp.ie]
Sent: 13 February 2014 12:30
To: Minister Rabbitte
Subject:

Dear Siobhan,

Further to our phone conversation please see attached a soft copy of the letter delivered by hand this morning to Minister Rabbitte.

My mobile number is [redacted] and my direct dial number is 01 432 5903. Please feel free to give me a call at any stage if you have any further questions on this event.

I very much look forward to hearing from you soon,

With best wishes,

Sinead Walsh

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**********
Hi Stephanie

Just wondered if a decision had been made on this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards

Sinead

----Original Message----
From: Stephanie Redmond [mailto:Stephanie.Redmond@dcenr.gov.ie]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 03:56 PM
To: Sinead Walsh
Subject: RE: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

Hi Sinead

The Minister will attend the Dinner as a guest only. If it is a case that the UN Broadband Commission would like the Minister to host the Dinner then a formal request would be required to the Minister from the head of the UN Broadband Commission.

Regards

Stephanie

Stephanie Redmond
Diary Secretary to Minister Pat Rabbitte Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Telephone
Adelaide Road: 01 678 2012
Leinster House: 01 700 2198

----Original Message----
From: Sinead Walsh [mailto:s Walsh@commcorpl.ie]
Sent: 06 March 2014 13:03
To: Stephanie Redmond
Subject: RE: Letter to Minister Rabbitte
Dear Stephanie,

Many thanks for your email clarification.

We would be delighted if Minister Rabbitte would host the dinner. President Kagame is travelling from Rwanda so it would be great if the Minister would consider hosting the evening.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards

Sinead

-----Original Message-----
From: Stephanie Redmond [mailto:Stephanie.Redmond@dcnr.gov.ie]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 01:00 PM
To: Sinead Walsh
Subject: RE: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

Hi Sinead

The contact person in Dept. Taosleach is Ray Henry, ray.henry@taoiseach.ie. A letter is only required from Protocol Division in the Dept. Taoiseach in order to waive the venue hire fee, a letter is not necessary to simply hire the venue, that can be done directly through Dublin Castle event manager.

To clarify, Minister Rabbitte has been invited to attend the Dinner and drinks reception as a guest and is not hosting, is that correct?

Stephanie

-----Original Message-----
From: Sinead Walsh [mailto:swalsh@communcorp.ie]
Sent: 05 March 2014 14:58
To: Stephanie Redmond
Subject: RE: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

Dear Stephanie,

I am following up on the phone call between Minister Rabbitte and Denis O’Brien on Friday last.

I know that Denis spoke to Minister Rabbitte about either hosting the drinks and dinner at Dublin Castle on Saturday 22 March or just the drinks reception. Denis appreciates that it is a Saturday night so although we would love to have him for both we appreciate how busy he is.

We very much look forward to welcoming him to the Commission meeting on Sunday at The Shebourne Hotel.

In order to confirm St. Patrick’s hall for the event we require approval from the office of the Taoiseach or the Tanaiste. Should I contact Nick Reddy about this myself?

Let me know what information you need from me in advance. I will have a full running order to you in advance.

I look forward to hearing from you.
---Original Message---
From: Stephanie Redmond [mailto:Stephanie.Redmond@dcenr.gov.ie]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 04:23 PM
To: Sinead Walsh
Subject: RE: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

That would be great, Thanks Sinead.

The Minister is in a meeting at the moment, I will ask him about a call with Denis as soon as that meeting finishes.

---Original Message---
From: Sinead Walsh [mailto:swalsh@communicorp.ie]
Sent: 28 February 2014 16:11
To: Stephanie Redmond
Subject: RE: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

Sincere thanks Stephanie. I will stay in close contact with you or whomever you direct me to with the logistics and any information that the Minister may need in advance.

Minister Rabbitte and Denis were to speak on the phone today, would you have an indication of what time he may be calling at? The best number to get him on is 01 4325903

With best regards and thanks

Sinead

---Original Message---
From: Stephanie Redmond [mailto:Stephanie.Redmond@dcenr.gov.ie]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 03:40 PM
To: Sinead Walsh
Subject: RE: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

Hi Sinead

Apologies for the delay in responding.

Minister Rabbitte has agreed to attend the Dinner on 22nd March and also the Conference on 23rd.

Regards

Stephanie

Stephanie Redmond
Diary Secretary to Minister Pat Rabbitte, T.D.
---Original Message---
From: Sinead Walsh [mailto:swalsh@communicorp.ie]
Sent: 24 February 2014 21:40
To: Stephanie Redmond
Subject: RE: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

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Best wishes and thanks
Sinead

---Original Message---
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Sent: 13 February 2014 18:22
To: Sinead Walsh
Subject: Letter to Minister Rabbitte

Good Evening Sinead

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

Regards

Stephanie Redmond
Diary Secretary to Minister Pat Rabbitte Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Telephone
Adelaide Road: 01 678 2012
Leinster House: 01 700 2198

---Original Message---
From: Sinead Walsh [mailto:swalsh@communicorp.ie]
Sent: 13 February 2014 12:30
To: Minister Rabbitte
Subject:

Dear Siobhan,
Minister Rabbitte.

My mobile number is [redacted] and my direct dial number is 01 432 5903. Please feel free to give me a call at any stage if you have any further questions on this event.

I very much look forward to hearing from you soon,

With best wishes,

Sinead Walsh

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******************************************************************************
Just to make you aware dinner on Saturday night is Business Casual – we have specified to the commissioners No Tie.

Best regards

Sinead

---

Hi Sinead

There is no protocol issues from this Departments side however you should enquire with Dept. Foreign Affairs and Dept. Taoiseach regarding protocol for the Rwandan President’s attendance.

Is the dinner a black tie evening?

Stephanie

Stephanie Redmond
Diary Secretary to Minister Pat Rabbitte, T.D.
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2
Telephone: Adelaide Road Office – 01 678 2012
Leinster House – 01 700 21 98

---

Dear Stephanie,

We are delighted that the Minister has agreed to host the Welcome Dinner on Saturday night at Dublin Castle.

Can you please let me know what protocol we need to adhere to in order for this event to run smoothly.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards,
Hi Sinead

Minister Rabbitte has agreed to host the Dinner on Saturday night.

What is the dress code for the dinner?

Regards

Stephanie

Stephanie Redmond
Diary Secretary to Minister Pat Rabbitte, T.D.
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2
Telephone: Adelaide Road Office – 01 678 2012
Leinster House – 01 700 21 98

Dear Stephanie,

I hope you had a nice St Patricks weekend.

I will need to get an answer from the Minister as a matter of urgency this morning on whether he intends to host the dinner on Saturday night at St Patricks Hall.

Can you call me as soon as you get to the office, my direct number is 4325903.

Best wishes

Sinead

Sinead Walsh

t: +353 1 432 5903
f: +353 1 432 5901
e: swalsh@communicorp.ie
Dear Stephanie,

I didn’t want to let the week go by without thanking you sincerely for all your help in the last few weeks.

The Broadband Commission was a huge success and it was a great honour to have Minister Rabbit host dinner on Saturday night at Dublin Castle.

Thank you for all your help in making it happen.

With best wishes,

Sinead

Sinead Walsh

t: +353 1 432 5903
f: +353 1 432 5901
e: swalsh@communique.ie