Carmel Conal

From:  
Sent:  
To: FOI UNIT  
Subject: FOI request re Shell

Hi

I would like to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

I would like a copy of any correspondence between the Department of Energy and Communications, or any agencies hired by it or that fall under its control, and the energy company Shell, in the last two years.

Kind regards

---

This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept by Microsoft Exchange Online Protection for the presence of computer viruses.

Registered in Ireland No: 153066
21/01/2015

Dear Ms,

I refer to your request which was received by this office on 20/01/2015 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this FOI body. Your request sought:

Any correspondence between the DCENR or any agencies hired by it or that fall under its control and the energy company Shell in the last two years.

The decision maker handling your request is Mr Keith Flanagan, Petroleum Production Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2 and he can be contacted at 01 6782018. 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 no later than 17.02.2015.

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 FOIUNIT@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.

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact me by telephone at 01 6782903.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Conaty
FOI Unit

Teach Leamhán, +353 1 6782000
Bóthar Ghleann an Iarla, LóGhila 1890 44 99 00 LoCall
An Cabhán Feáics +353 1 6783057 Fax

Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan
Re: FOI request FOI/2015/11

Dear Ms,

I refer further to your request, dated 20 January and subsequent phone call which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 for records held by the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources.

During the telephone conversation, I invited you to consider focusing the scope of your request due to the voluminous records to which your original request applies. You verbally amended your request to: “a copy of any correspondence between the Department of Energy and Communications, or any agencies hired by it or that fall under its control, and the energy company Shell, in the last year.”

The documents sought in the amended scope does not in fact reduce the voluminous nature of the request significantly in my view in accordance with section 15 (c) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. As I stated previously, this section provides that “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.”

I suggest that you visit the Department’s website at the location below where you will be able to access all documents/records relating to the statutory assessment process for the Corrib gas field development. http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Natural/PetroleumAffairs+Division/Corrib+Gas+Field+Development/

If there are any additional documents you require I am happy to discuss this matter further with a view to providing you with any specific records you require. If I do not hear from you within the next 8 weeks I will proceed to make a decision on your request.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Flanagan
Petroleum Affairs Division
27 March 2015

Re: FOI request FOI/2015/11

Dear

I refer further to your request, dated 20 January and subsequent phone conversations which you made under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 for records held by the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources.

I invited you to consider focusing the scope of your request due to the voluminous records to which your original request applies. You verbally amended your request to: “a copy of any correspondence between the Department of Energy and Communications, or any agencies hired by it or that fall under its control, and the energy company Shell, in the last year.”

I have now made a final decision to refuse your request. As highlighted in the letter of 29 January, the documents sought in the amended scope does not in fact reduce the voluminous nature of the request significantly in my view, in accordance with section 15 (c) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. As I stated previously, this section provides that “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.”

In the event that you are unhappy with this decision you may appeal 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 Rd, Co Cavan. 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 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 body.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on (01) 6782018.