

From: John Donovan john@shellnews.net
Subject: Shell Corrib Corruption Scandal
Date: 6 May 2013 at 19:35
To: frances.fitzgerald@oireachtas.ie



Irish Police corruption, booze and violence sponsored by Shell

Dear Frances Fitzgerald TD

I am writing to you and all other members of the Dail on an exceptional basis concerning a matter that should be a cause of great concern.

I sent an email to your Justice Minister Mr Alan Shatter over a month ago concerning alleged widespread corruption of the Garda by Shell E&P Ireland.

Mr Shatter is aware that I have in my possession a vast array of what I believe to be related authentic documents and correspondence. It includes an invoice from a small firm - The OSSL Company - to Shell E&P Ireland for over 35,000 euros (plus VAT) spent on the procurement of alcohol distributed to the Garda by OSSL, on behalf of its long time client, Shell.

I understand that the cost would be substantially higher if the alcohol was purchased on a legitimate basis, bearing in mind the possibility, in view of the content of the invoice in question, that the alcohol was smuggled across the border. If so, that might also raise taxation and criminal law issues.

I also supplied Mr Shatter with a copy of a letter marked "Strictly Private & Confidential" dated 28 February 2011 from The OSSL Company to Garda Superintendent Mr. John Gilligan. The letter discussed the purchase and delivery of festive gifts to the Garda and claimed that the gifts were purchased by OSSL on behalf of Shell E&P Ireland. According to the letter: *"At Shell's insistence these gifts came with a high degree of confidentiality, which we have adhered to until this very day."*

Emails sent to OSSL from Michael Crothers, the Chief Executive of Shell E&P Ireland, provide some confirmation of claims made by OSSL. There are signs that Mr Crothers is uncomfortable with the toxic mess he has inherited from his predecessors.

Thus far, all I have received from Mr Shatter is a series of acknowledgement emails sent on his behalf, the most expansive one, dated 5 April, stated: "I write to acknowledge receipt of your email today and can confirm the matter is being dealt with." That could just mean that my emails have been placed on file.

There has been a similar astonishing lack of curiosity by other parties I have contacted, including senior Shell officials Linda Szymanski, Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer of Royal Dutch Shell Plc; Michiel Brandjes, [Company Secretary & General Counsel Corporate](#), and Julia Busby, [head of Shell Legal Dept.](#)

[Detective Chief Superintendent John Gilligan](#), who is alleged to have had a direct hand in the scandal, did not reply to my email inviting him to comment.

Astonishingly, none of these Shell officials, nor John Gilligan, Alan Shatter, or anyone else in the Irish government, police, or any oversight body, has asked me to supply the voluminous evidence. No one seems shocked, or even interested. There have been no denials issued, nor have I received any threats of litigation, as could be anticipated if the allegations were without foundation.

This seems to be a rotten state of affairs? I am now beginning to wonder if Shell has bought the whole Irish Establishment? Please tell me that I am wrong? Is there anyone in the Dail who is sufficiently concerned to intervene?

I sent emails to Linda Szymanski on [28 March 2013](#), [29 March 2013](#) and [15 April](#) about the OSSL allegations and supplied the aforementioned [OSSL Invoice](#).

Some of the wording on the invoice seems reminiscent of the prohibition era in the USA. Somebody trying to conceal the illicit transportation of alcohol. OSSL has explained the circumstances behind the long delay in raising the invoice. Shell knew that it was dealing with a very hot potato and put off the day of reckoning by using its power over a small company (OSSL), which naturally wanted to retain its most important client.

Basically Shell funded free alcohol, procured and delivered by OSSL on Shell's behalf, that was allegedly lavished on hundreds of police officers - a form of reward not conducive to the well-being, ethical standing, safety and demeanor of the Garda. The booze was allegedly delivered to senior on duty officers, with at least one delivery being made at Police premises. OSSL says that on Shell's instructions, invoices were falsified to disguise what was going on.

By way of background information, I operate an entirely non-commercial independent website, which for nearly 10 years, has monitored the activities of Royal Dutch Shell.

During this period we have received and published a considerable volume of Shell whistleblower information that has generated coverage in newspapers (1) (2) (3), [magazines](#), [television](#) and [radio](#).

As can be seen from the *extract of a book authored by Lorna Sigin, we published in 2007 confidential minutes of a 2002 committee meeting of Shell Managing Directors, when "*The committee queried whether the group had sufficiently well placed contacts with the Irish government and regulators.*" Shell had already spread its tentacles of influence inside the Irish government and regulators, and senior management was apparently intent on increasing Shell's penetration.

I have already pointed out to Mr Shatter that Shell has prior form in abusing the trust of host governments. For example, Shell sponsored corruption of U.S. Federal employees/regulators in a [sex, drugs and alcohol scandal](#). [Shell embedded spies into every ministry of the Nigerian government](#). Also in Nigeria, Shell incurred a \$30million "criminal penalty" over charges it paid \$2million to a sub-contractor "*with the knowledge that some or all of the money*" would be used to [bribe Nigerian officials](#).

In response to our website activities, Shell has engaged in a [global spying operation](#) on its own employees in an attempt to trace our sources and stop the leakage of insider information.

Death threats allegedly made to Shell Corrib Gas Project employees who had leaked numerous Shell internal emails to me, were reported in the Irish Times in April 2011 under the headline: "[Gardai investigate alleged death threats to Corrib whistleblowers](#)"

In September 2012, I received the first whistleblower information from OSSL. It had become, over several years, a "Mr Fixit" agent of Shell, distributing gifts and favours to third parties to ease the torturous progress of the highly controversial project.

I [notified our designated Shell contact](#), Mr Michiel Brandjes, Company Secretary & General Counsel Corporate of Royal Dutch Shell Plc. I asked if Shell wanted to investigate the allegations. There was no reply.

Based on information subsequently received from OSSL, we have published a series of

articles (headlines below).

The matter is obviously serious, with allegations that the Garda has acted as an offshoot of Shell security in brutally policing protests against the Corrib Gas Project - perhaps fueled by the free booze sponsored by Shell. Graphics (1) (2) posted on the Internet confirm a widely held perception by environmental activists, including the [Shell to Sea](#) campaign, that the Garda are "Shell's Cops".

Alleged excessive violence by the Garda against protestors is set out on pages 214 & 215 of the book: "[ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST: The Corrib Gas Controversy](#)," authored by Irish Times journalist Lorna Siggins.

OSSL allege that Shell, in a move to silence them, has threatened to blacklist OSSL in the oil and gas industry. [Something that Shell has done before](#) to others.

OSSL also allege that Shell used a third party multinational accountancy firm to convey a warning that OSSL staff risked being jailed for the acts they had carried out for Shell. This threat was also obviously designed to frighten them into keeping quiet.

OSSL is appalled that Shell management involved their small company in such activity. They relied on Shell, its pledge of ethical trading and its army of lawyers, to ensure that it was not drawn into any illegal actions on Shell's behalf. It now seeks the protection of whistleblower status.

On 31 March 2013, I brought these matters to the attention of Mr Alan Shatter TD in his capacity as Justice & Equalities Minister. I have sent further emails to him, but have never received anything more than a polite acknowledgement as quoted. Legitimate questions that I raised have thus far been ignored.

On 1 May, after news broke of proposals of brand sponsorship for the UK police I [sent an email](#) to Mr Shatter asking rather sarcastically, if a pilot scheme was already underway in Ireland, with Shell sponsoring the Garda? I pointed out that if it was, the sponsorship should flow into state coffers, rather than down the throats of apparently very thirsty police officers. Nor was there any evidence of Shell logo's displayed on uniforms or on police cars.

What is going on is unfair to impartial, honest and sober members of the Garda.

It is under these circumstances that I decided to notify all members of the Irish parliament.

All of the evidence in my possession is available provided I receive confirmation that the allegations will be officially investigated and the findings put into the public domain.

I regret to say that the scandal is wider in scope than has thus far been revealed.

If you are concerned, please ask Mr Shatter what action, if any, he has taken thus far?

If you can let me know what his response is, that would be very helpful.

*EXTRACTS FROM "ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST" BY LORNA SIGGIN: Published 5 October 2010

FROM THE FOREWORD (BY FINTAN O'TOOLE)

Though theoretically citizens in a liberal democracy, those who have stood in the way of the exploitation of the Corrib gas field by a consortium led by Shell found themselves with very little protection from their own government. Instead of seeking to negotiate a settlement on behalf of these citizens, Irish governments aligned themselves to an overwhelming extent with Shell, putting the resources of the state behind the acquisition of land and, when locals objected, mounting a policing operation that at one point included the deployment of the

navy.

FROM PAGES 126 &127 ("Ahern" is a reference to Bertie Ahern, a corrupt Irish government minister who became Taoiseach)

When the issue arose again in the Dail, the following month, Ahern insisted there was nothing unethical about his discussion in September with the senior Shell executives. There were 'no deals or arrangements' with Shell, he insisted, adding that 'other countries have ways and means of treating large companies, which I do not agree with. I have had a fair few meetings over the years that might border on the unethical, but I am not guilty of it in this case.'

Four years later, in November 2007, the RoyalDutchShellplc.com website run by Alfred and John Donovan – long-time critics of the multinational – [published details of minutes](#) of a meeting of Shell group managing directors on 22 and 23 July 2002. Planning refusal for the Ballinaboy gas terminal in north Mayo was discussed, according to the website, which quoted from the minutes: 'The committee queried whether the group had sufficiently well placed contacts with the Irish government and regulators. Paul Skinner undertook to explore this issue further in consultation with the country chairman in Ireland.'

HEADLINES OF RECENT CORRIB GAS SCANDAL ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY US

[Shell Corrib Gas Project Corruption and Cover-up Allegations: 10 Sept 2012](#)

[Irish Supplier Accuses Shell of Bribery, Cover-up and Sinister Threats: 10 Sept 2012](#)

[Shell instructed Corrib Gas Project supplier to falsify invoices?: 18 Sept 2012](#)

[Shell Corruption Conspiracy in Corrib Gas Project: 8 October 2012](#)

[Shell Corrib Gas Project Corruption Scandal: 11 October 2012](#)

[Corrib Gas Project Engulfed in Corruption Allegations: 12 November 2012](#)

[Shell Corrib Gas Project mired in corruption allegations: 22 Jan 2013](#)

[Shell EP Ireland mired in corruption allegations: 22 February 2013](#)

[Beware of a man in a Shell Hat: 5 March 2013](#)

[Shell Accused of Corrupting Irish Police Force: 28 March 2013](#)

[OSSL, SHELL AND ALLEGED CORRUPTION: 29 March 2013](#)

[The danger of getting into bed with Shell: 31 March 2013](#)

[ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF THE IRISH POLICE BY SHELL: 31 March 2013](#)

[Alleged Shell corruption surrounding Corrib Gas Project: 4 April 2013](#)

[Alleged Shell Irish Police Corruption Saga Rumbles On: 5 April 2013](#)

[Shell corruption scheme operated in Ireland on an industrial scale?: 6 April 2013](#)

[Mystery surrounding OSSL alleged Shell Corruption Scandal: 12 April 2013](#)

[Alleged Shell Irish Bribes Scandal: 15 April 2013](#)

[Irish Police corruption, booze and violence sponsored by Shell?: 16 April 2013](#)

[More allegations about Shell Corrib Gas Project: 19 April 2013](#)

[CORRUPTION ENGULFING SHELL CORRIB GAS PROJECT: 29 April 2013](#)

[Shell Corrib Gas Project: 28 April 2013](#)

[Shell Corrib Gas Scandal: email to Detective Chief Superintendent John Gilligan: 30 April 2013](#)

[OSSL v. ROYAL DUTCH SHELL: 1 May 2013](#)

[SHELL SPONSORED CORRUPTION OF THE IRISH POLICE: 1 May 2013](#)

[Shell Corrib Corruption & Community Complaints: 3 May 2013 \(By a guest author\)](#)

[Police commissioner wants private firms to sponsor cars and stations: The Telegraph 2 May 2013](#)

Yours sincerely

John Donovan

From: Sandra.Markey@taoiseach.gov.ie 
Subject: email to the Taoiseach
Date: 11 June 2014 at 18:25
To: john@shellnews.net



Dear Mr. Donovan

i refer to your email of 7 June 2014 to the Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny T.D.

I have forwarded your correspondence to his colleague Frances Fitzgerald T.D., and Minister for Justice and Equality for her consideration.

Yours sincerely,

David King
Assistant Private Secretary
to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01-6194021
E-mail: privateoffice@taoiseach.gov.ie

Department's E-mail Disclaimer:

View the [Department's Mail Disclaimer](#)

From: **John Donovan** johndonovan@me.com 
Subject: Corrib Gas Project: Blackmail & Corruption?
Date: 4 November 2014 at 19:44
To: frances.fitzgerald@oireachtas.ie
Cc: Ed Vulliamy ed.vulliamy@guardian.co.uk



Dear Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald

This information is being supplied to you in your capacity as Justice Minister of Ireland, despite written threats I have received from Mr Marc Fitzgibbon, a senior partner of Dublin law firm, Lavelle.

Mr Fitzgibbon represents OSS, the small "Mr Fixit" company which has distributed "sweeteners" (bribes) to smooth the path of the controversial Corrib Gas Project - the consortium venture led by Shell (45%), in which the Norwegian State Oil company [Statoil](#) (36.5%) and the Canadian company, [Vermilion Energy](#) (18.5%), are Shell's partners.

You may recall a related article by Ed Vulliamy published by The Observer newspaper in August 2013 under the headline ["Strange tale of Shell's pipeline battle, the Gardaí and £30,000 of booze"](#) My involvement is mentioned in the article.

Coincidentally, another article by Mr Vulliamy was published on Sunday by The Observer, which also puts the [Irish Police in dock](#). Likewise an article published in Ireland yesterday ["We need to talk about the Gardaí."](#)

The confirmed recipients of Shell Christmas alcohol gifts have included [the Irish news media](#). Shell has itself admitted in a [press statement](#) about the OSSL allegations, that Shell supplied Christmas hampers to local businesses and suppliers. Hence, there was nothing unusual about Irish Shell handing out gifts at Christmas.

However, Shell denies funding the Christmas time alcohol supplied in 2005, 2006, and 2007, via OSSL, to Garda officers involved with alleged aggressive policing of protests by anti-Corrib pipeline campaigners, such as "Shell to Sea."

Mr Fitzgibbon was the key participant in a 42 minute meeting at the end of July 2014 with his clients, Desmond Kane and Neil Rooney of OSSL, which was covertly recorded by OSSL. The alcohol given to the Garda was the main subject discussed throughout the meeting. It was mentioned over 60 times in reference to the supposedly non existent alcohol.

The recollections of Mr Fitzgibbon are key because he was present alongside Mr Kane and Mr Rooney at three meetings with very senior people at Shell, when the provision of the sweeteners, including the police alcohol, was discussed.

As can be heard on the recording, the value of "sweeteners" supplied on behalf of Shell by OSSL to one lucky recipient, was allegedly worth several hundred thousand euros. Solicitors acting for the party in question sent a related warning letter to OSSL in February 2012, but have taken no action even though their client was named in correspondence circulated by OSSL. There appears to be a tacit acceptance in the solicitors letter that that their client was a beneficiary of Shell largess.

The third meeting between Shell and OSSL of the three attended by Marc Fitzgibbon

The third meeting between Shell and OSSL, of the three attended by **Mark Fitzgibbon**, was a mediation session on 2 August 2012 resulting in a full and final settlement agreement, the terms of which were bound by confidentiality. The mediation arose from legal proceedings OSSL had issued against Shell.

Shell thought the matter was at an end. That the settlement covered all outstanding sums for goods and services supplied by OSSL to Shell or on behalf of Shell. Mr Fitzgibbon appears to take the same view. That it was indeed a full and final settlement.

OSSL had other ideas.

According to **Philip Boucher-Hayes of RTE**, 22 days after the full and final settlement, *"OSSL sent an invoice to Shell for a total of €43,000 euro including nearly €30,000 of alcohol purchases. The invoice claims to detail how OSSL on the instructions of a named Shell executive purchased the alcohol delivered to a number of named Gardaí in Bellmullet and Athlone."*

If I understand the situation correctly, OSSL contends that it was only paid for the police alcohol supplied at Christmas time 2005 and 2006, but not for the much larger consignment of alcohol brought across the border at Christmas time 2007.

OSSL has showered Shell with money demands ever since. Emails have been sent by OSSL to Shell management and staff and other parties including the main contractor Roadbridge, Garda officers and Shell's Corrib partners, Statoil and Vermilion.

OSSL first contacted me in September 2012 and I have subsequently authored and published in good faith over 100 articles highlighting their cause. By April 2013 I had become suspicious that OSSL were blackmailing Shell, but no evidence emerged until OSSL supplied me with a copy of the covert recording, containing information that heightened my concern.

I subsequently made it plain to Mr Kane, via email correspondence, that I was concerned about being implicated in what was going on if I took no action.

He asked to meet with me to be given the opportunity to explain why my fears were unfounded and the OSSL claim against Shell entirely proper. Rather than being reassured, my concerns were heightened by his lack of any credible explanation for persisting with the money demands.

I therefore decided to approach Mr Fitzgibbon to advise him that the suspicions he had expressed in the meeting with OSSL about his comments being recorded by OSSL, were well founded. I also notified him of my plans to report my suspicions of a blackmail plot to the Irish Judicial authorities, which I am now doing.

Mr Fitzgibbon was entitled to be hostile after finding out from me that his private consultation with his client had been surreptitiously recorded and supplied to me. With some justification, he claimed breach of confidentiality, client privilege and of Data Protection.

However, I am not an Irish citizen, neither do I reside within Irish jurisdiction. I have

no obligation of confidentiality towards him or his client, who supplied the recording to me on an unsolicited basis.

I believe that the public interest should take first priority.

As can be deduced from the recording, it took a little while for Mr Fitzgibbon to recall details about events that took place a couple of years ago, but his recollection improved as the meeting progressed and his brave advice to OSSL is abundantly clear. That the settlement agreed at the third meeting attended by him was full and final and OSSL has no legal grounds to pursue Shell for further payment.

These matters are covered in some details in an article I published on 28 October ["OSSL Blackmail Plot Against Shell?"](#) containing extracts from the transcript.

Clair Daly TD wrote to Irish Shell Chairman/CEO/MD Michael Crothers and received a response from him in a letter dated 28 May 2013 in which he cited the above quoted "full and final settlement." Mr Crothers was present at the mediation meeting.

This is the full extract.

To resolved the claim, there was a full and final settlement of contractual matters in 2012 and a Settlement Agreement was signed by OSSL in the presence of its legal advisors.

(The legal advisor being Mr Marc Fitzgibbon who was directly involved in the face-to-face negotiations with Crothers that led to the settlement.)

Mr Crothers went on in his letter to complain about the hundreds of emails from OSSL demanding more money from Shell.

On 10 June 2013, I sent an [email to Mr Crothers](#) asking question about the content of his reply to Clair Daly. I quoted from an email he sent to OSSL on 22 May 2012 in which he failed to deny allegations made by OSSL about the alcohol, in an email they had sent to him 22 minutes earlier.

I took his lack of denial as important evidence that Mr Crothers knew full well that the allegations were true. Shell had ordered OSSL to procure and supply the alcohol to the Garda as a Christmas gift.

As a result of listening to the covert recording, it now appears that the alcohol may have been the basis for a long-running attempt by OSSL to extort money from Shell when Shell had already stumped up a very substantial sum to buy the silence of OSSL. The full and final settlement included a gagging clause.

Shell has had internal investigations in relation to OSSL allegations, but declined to let Mr Vulliamy see the assembled information. Shell refused to disclose any of the same material in response to a recent SAR request to the company from Desmond Kane of OSSL under the UK Data Protection Act. It did repeatedly cite his money demands and pointed out *"SEPIL considers that the mediation settlement is a final closure of matters relating to the contract. Note that terms of the settlement are confidential"*

Since three Irish police investigations have resulted in the same basic formula being presented... no evidence to support OSSL allegations (the same cover-up formula used by Shell), on reflection, there seems little point in another investigation by the Irish police. Under the circumstances, they cannot be considered as impartial or independent.

(I may notify the UK police and/or the Dutch police as the money demands have been sent to the UK, Ireland and the Netherlands.)

As far as Ireland is concerned, my conclusion is that what is really required is a public inquiry to establish the truth.

Did OSSL supply alcohol to senior Gardai officers on behalf of Shell? If so, has OSSL subsequently used this fact in an attempt to blackmail Shell into paying again to buy its silence.

Mr Kane strongly denies being a blackmailer and claims that OSSL claims are entirely legitimate.

Why would Mr Kane and Mr Rooney invest so much time and effort into demanding payment for something that never existed? What would be the point?

I am in possession of further evidence that I am holding back for the right moment. It will be released by my solicitor, if for some reason, I am indisposed.

Shell, Statoil, Vermilion, the Gardai and the Irish Police Ombudsman Commission, all have good reason to be concerned about the scandal that will not go away.

If OSSL allegations are found to be true, then attention will be focussed on other allegations made by OSSL in relation to the Corrib Gas project and its troubled history. Who better to dish the dirt than the Mr Fixit company, which, by its own admission, carried out "dirty work" for Shell paid for via a "slush fund". Shell's full and final settlement was made after the quoted description of OSSL's work for Shell was put to SEPIL representatives by Mr Kane on 10 June 2010 in the Hilton Hotel in Dublin. This is all information taken verbatim from a Shell E&P Ireland document marked "Confidential" dated 3 October 2014.

What is the betting that Statoil and Vermilion are horrified by the SEPIL/OSSL affair?

A transcript of the recorded meeting is attached. The audio file will be sent separately.

Kind regards
John Donovan



OSSL
Record....pages

From: INFO info@justice.ie
Subject: Re : OSSL SHELL BLACKMAIL/CORRUPTION
Date: 25 November 2014 at 11:01
To: John Donovan johndonovan@me.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your email.

Christopher Quattrociocchi
Private Secretary

Memo

From : John Donovan <johndonovan@me.com>
To: INFO <info@justice.ie>,
cc: michiel.brandjes@shell.com,
Date : 24/11/2014
Subject: OSSL SHELL BLACKMAIL/CORRUPTION

Dear Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald

I am writing as a follow-up to my email of 4 November 2014.

Your office acknowledged safe receipt in the response sent on your behalf on 19 November.

I believe you will find that a number of TD's will be contacting you on this matter.

There is a key piece of evidence that I suspect has never received the scrutiny it deserves.

I refer to the OSSL invoice to Shell &P Ireland dated 24 August 2012 mentioned explicitly in the Observer article and published several times by me.

Shell has recently confirmed in writing receipt of this invoice. See page 2 of the 13 page document entitled "Confidential Subject Access Request: Mr Desmond Kane, attached to a two page letter to Mr Kane from Shell E&P Ireland Limited dated 3 October 2014.

Extract

The invoice for Garda alcohol was generated by OSSL on August 24, 2012 and mailed to SEPIL on that day and is dated such, for deliveries it claims were made in 2007.

That constitutes absolute identification by Shell of the invoice and confirmation that it was received and read by Shell, which has never to my knowledge stated that the invoice is fake. Clearly that is not the case. It may be fraudulent, flawed or inaccurate, but it is not fake.

According to the invoice, the alcohol was transported across the border.

It shows a VAT number and other specific information.

Thus far there has been three Irish police investigations and two internal investigations by Shell.

What is the betting that no one has approached the Irish Tax and Customs authority to investigate the legitimacy of the all important invoice?

The Northern Ireland police and taxation authorities may also be interested.

The invoice is for alcohol supplied to the Garda on behalf of Shell. Mr Marc Fitzgibbon has confirmed verbally on record and in writing that the alcohol was discussed in his presence with senior people at Shell. There is now no question that it was supplied.

The invoice for the alcohol has been the foundation of a two year blackmailing operation with OSSL bombarding money demands on Shell for alcohol Shell had already paid for in full.

Consequently, the OSSL invoice is of huge significance in relation to alleged very serious corruption and associated blackmail on an unprecedented scale.

Have I got to report this aspect myself to the Irish Revenue? I am not even an Irish citizen. When is someone in the Irish government going to have this matter properly investigated once and for all?

The last investigation by the Garda Ombudsman was an absolute farce. The lead investigator was not interested in the invoice, even though I supplied it to him.

Please advise of what action, if any, you intend to take.

This time the claim that there is no evidence will not wash.

It exists and has been authenticated by Shell.

Yours sincerely

John Donovan

PS. I am sending copies of this email to every TD and Senator who have email addresses.

Is le haghaidh an duine nó an eintitis ar a bhfuil sí dírithe, agus le haghaidh an duine nó an eintitis sin amháin, a bheartaítear an fhaisnéis a tarchuireadh agus féadfaidh sé go bhfuil ábhar faoi rún agus/nó faoi phribhléid inti. Toirmisctear aon athbhreithniú, atarchur nó leathadh a dhéanamh ar an bhfaisnéis seo, aon úsáid eile a bhaint aisti nó aon gníomh a dhéanamh ar a hiontaoibh, ag daoine nó ag eintitis seachas an faighteoir beartaithe. Má fuair tú é seo trí dhearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir, le do thoil, agus scríos an t-ábhar as aon ríomhaire. Is é beartas na Roinne Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, na nOifigí agus na nGníomhaireachtaí a úsáideann seirbhísí TF na Roinne seoladh ábhair cholúil a dhícheadú.

Más rud é go measann tú gur ábhar colúil atá san ábhar atá sa teachtaireacht seo is ceart duit dul i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir láithreach agus le [mailminder\[ag\]justice.ie](mailto:mailminder[ag]justice.ie) chomh maith.

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Should you consider that the material contained in this message is offensive you should contact the sender immediately and also [mailminder\[at\]justice.ie](mailto:mailminder[at]justice.ie).

From: **John Browne** john.browne@oireachtas.ie 
Subject: Re: Fwd: OSSL SHELL BLACKMAIL/CORRUPTION
Date: 27 November 2014 at 16:35
To: John Donovan johndonovan@me.com



John

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail and I have forwarded same to Minister Fitzgerald- for her consideration. I have asked her to note the points and comments raised in your e-mail and I have asked her to reply to same. As soon as I receive the reply I will be back in touch with you.

Kindest personal regards

JOHN BROWNE T.D.
Lower Church Street
Enniscorthy
Co. Wexford
053 92 35046

▼ John Donovan ---27/11/2014 14:48:24---> Begin forwarded message: >

From: **John Donovan** <johndonovan@me.com>
To: gerry.adams@oireachtas.ie, james.bannon@oireachtas.ie, sean.barrett@oireachtas.ie, tom.barry@oireachtas.ie, richard.boydbarrett@oireachtas.ie, pat.breen@oireachtas.ie
Cc: tommy.broughan@oireachtas.ie, john.browne@oireachtas.ie, richard.brunton@oireachtas.ie, joan.burton@oireachtas.ie, ray.butler@oireachtas.ie, jerry.buttimer@oireachtas.ie, catherine.byrne@oireachtas.ie, eric.byrne@oireachtas.ie, dara.calleary@oireachtas.ie, ciaran.cannon@oireachtas.ie, joe.carey@oireachtas.ie
Date: 27/11/2014 14:48
Subject: Fwd: OSSL SHELL BLACKMAIL/CORRUPTION

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Donovan <johndonovan@me.com>
Subject: OSSL SHELL BLACKMAIL/CORRUPTION
Date: 24 November 2014 22:07:25 GMT
Cc: michiel.brandjes@shell.com
To: INFO <info@justice.ie>

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Have I got to report this aspect myself to the Irish Revenue? I am not even an Irish citizen. When is someone in the Irish government going to have this matter properly investigated once and for all?

The last investigation by the Garda Ombudsman was an absolute farce. The lead investigator was not interested in the invoice. even though I supplied it to

him.

Please advise of what action, if any, you intend to take.

This time the claim that there is no evidence will not wash.

It exists and has been authenticated by Shell.

Yours sincerely

John Donovan

PS. I am sending copies of this email to every TD and Senator who have email addresses.

Oireachtas email policy and disclaimer.

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/about/oireachtasemailpolicyanddisclaimer/>

Beartas ríomhphoist an Oireachtais agus séanadh.

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasriomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/>

From: **INFO** info@justice.ie 
Subject: Response
Date: 9 March 2015 at 10:57
To: johndonovan johndonovan@me.com



9 March, 2015

Dear Mr. Donovan,

I am directed by the Minister for Justice and Equality, Ms Frances Fitzgerald, T.D., to refer to your correspondence with the Department concerning allegations against An Garda Síochána. I regret the delay in replying.

The Minister has directed me to point out the recent Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) Report of its investigation into these allegations. That Report, as you are no doubt aware, found no evidence of the purchase or delivery of alcohol to Garda stations, nor any misconduct of Garda members.

The Minister considers, therefore, that the matter is now closed and will not be entering into any further correspondence in relation to this. However, should you have any evidence supporting your allegations you should contact GSOC in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Quattrociocchi

Chris Quattrociocchi
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice and Equality

Is le haghaidh an duine nó an eintitis ar a bhfuil sí dírithe, agus le haghaidh an duine nó an eintitis sin amháin, a bheartaítear an fhaisnéis a tarchuireadh agus féadfaidh sé go bhfuil ábhar faoi rún agus/nó faoi phribhléid inti. Toirmiscear aon athbhreithniú, atarchur nó leathadh a dhéanamh ar an bhfaisnéis seo, aon úsáid eile a bhaint aisti nó aon ghníomh a dhéanamh ar a hiontaoibh, ag daoine nó ag eintitis seachas an faighteoir beartaithe. Má fuair tú é seo trí dhearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir, le do thoil, agus scríos an t-ábhar as aon ríomhaire. Is é beartas na Roinne Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais, na nOifigí agus na nGníomhaireachtaí a úsáideann seirbhísí TF na Roinne seoladh ábhair cholúil a dhícheadú.

Más rud é go measann tú gur ábhar colúil atá san ábhar atá sa teachtaireacht seo is ceart duit dul i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir láithreach agus le mailminder[ag]justice.ie chomh maith.

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Should you consider that the material contained in this message is offensive you should contact the sender immediately and also [mailminder\[at\]justice.ie](mailto:mailminder[at]justice.ie).

From: **INFO** info@justice.ie 
Subject: Re : OSSL
Date: 26 March 2015 at 09:00
To: John Donovan johndonovan@me.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your email.

Christopher Quattrociocchi
Private Secretary

Memo

From : John Donovan <johndonovan@me.com>

To: complaints@gsoc.ie,
cc: Bernard J Durkan <bernard.durkan@oireachtas.ie>, John Browne
<john.browne@oireachtas.ie>, Clare Daly <clare.daly@oireachtas.ie>,
INFO <info@justice.ie>, Ed Vulliamy <ed.vulliamy@guardian.co.uk>,
maurah.ias@eircom.net, John Donovan <john@shellnews.net>, Lorna
Siggins <lsiggins@indigo.ie>, Paul O'Donoghue
<paulodonoghue93@gmail.com>, Olga Cronin <olgacronin@gmail.com>,
Áine Ryan <aineryan@mayonews.ie>,
Date : 25/03/2015
Subject: OSSL

**SHELL CORRUPTION OF IRISH POLICE, AS ADMITTED BY ITS AGENT/CONTRACTOR:
OSSL**

Dear Sirs

I attach for your information a copy of a letter dated 12 March 2015 from
Ms Frances Fitzgerald, T.D., Irish Minister for Justice and Equality,
addressed to Mr Bernard J Durkan TD.

This is similar in content to replies sent recently to other T.D's - all of
whom kindly took this matter up with the Minister on my behalf, who has now
invited me to supply the GSOC with evidence.

I want to keep this simple, so I will restrict my comments to one item of
evidence which has already been supplied, but not acted upon, plus
important items of evidence that have emerged since the GSOC Report
published in July 2014.

The item of evidence already supplied is an OSSL VAT invoice to Shell EP

Ireland detailing the procurement and delivery of free alcohol given to the Garda at the express instruction of Shell.

If in fact no alcohol was purchased and delivered, then the raising of a false VAT invoice sent to Shell demanding payment must constitute a crime?

Please note that Shell has admitted receiving the invoice and has not denounced it as being false.

Have Irish VAT officers investigated the authenticity of the OSSL invoice for alcohol apparently purchased in Northern Ireland and transported (smuggled?) across the border?

If not, why not?

Details of the invoice were in a major article by Ed Vulliamy published by The Observer/Guardian Group in August 2013.

Strange tale of Shell's pipeline battle, the Gardai and £30,000 of booze

If the invoice is fictitious and the related OSSL allegations false, OSSL directors would by now have been arrested and charged for forging a VAT invoice and using it in an attempt to blackmail its former client, Shell EP Ireland.

THE NEW EVIDENCE NOT YET CONSIDERED BY THE GSOC

I did bring this new information to the attention of the Garda in my email to Supt. Patrick Diskin dated 16 November 2014. I received a response from him two days later in which he advised that he had forwarded the correspondence to Superintendent Joseph McKenna. I heard nothing further from the Garda despite the importance of the information I supplied.

I can only assume that the blackmail allegations were unfounded, otherwise why have they not been taken up by Shell or the police? OSSL have always insisted on their innocence on that score, but have admitted to distributing bribes to the Garda and other parties on behalf of Shell in respect of the Corrib Gas Project.

THE EVIDENCE

A 42 minute covertly recorded consultation between senior lawyer Mr Marc Fitzgibbon, representing Dublin Solicitors Lavelle, and their then clients, Mr Desmond Kane and Mr Neil Rooney representing OSSL

The audio file can be accessed [here](#)

An associated transcript of the covertly recorded consultation.

(Some of the more interesting parts are highlighted in red text.)

Related emails from Marc Fitzgibbon about the non-existent police alcohol.

A letter marked "Private & Confidential" dated 21 October 2014 sent to Desmond Kane of OSSL by Marc Fitzgibbon. The letter details telephone calls Lavelle received from Shell requesting a conference call with Mr Fitzgibbon, to include several Shell staff, including specifically Michael Crothers, the CEO of Irish Shell. This was immediately after I threatened to publish the covertly recorded discussion.

The telephone calls suggest that the existence of the covertly recorded consultation with Marc Fitzgibbon, in which the subject of alcohol given to the Irish police was raised over 60 times, triggered a panicked response from Shell.

All of this fuss over alcohol that the Irish authorities claim never existed.

Yours sincerely

John Donovan(See attached file: BernardDurkan.pdf)

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OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Bernard J Durkan TD
Kildare North Constituency
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Minister Reference: 1117124014

12 March, 2015

Dear Bernard,

I refer to your correspondence of 11 November, 2014 with the Department on behalf of John Donovan concerning allegations in relation to the Corrib Gas Project. I regret the delay in replying.

Mr. Donovan has been referred to the recent Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) Report of its investigation into these allegations. That Report, as you are no doubt aware, found no evidence of the purchase or delivery of alcohol to Garda stations, nor any misconduct of Garda members. Mr. Donovan has been advised that should he have any evidence supporting his allegations, he can contact GSOC in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Frances Fitzgerald, T.D.
Minister for Justice and Equality