



Office of the Minister for Defence
Oifig an Aire Cosanta
Department of Defence
An Roinn Cosanta

18th February, 2010

An Taoiseach
Mr Brian Cowen T.D.
Department of the Taoiseach
Government Buildings
Upr Merrion Street,
Dublin 2

A Thaoisigh,

It is with the deepest regret that in accordance with Article 28.9.2 of the Constitution, I wish to formally tender my resignation as Minister for Defence with effect from today.

I have at all times acted in the interests of the Government and of the people I have been honoured to represent. It is my belief that I have always acted honourably and in good faith in the conduct of my duties as a Minister. While I resolutely refute all the accusations made against me in recent days, I have come to the regrettable conclusion that my continuing in office will only serve to distract from the important and vital work of Government in addressing the serious challenges that the country continues to face at this time.

I was privileged to serve in Government over the past five and a half years. I believe my record as a Minister has been to the benefit of the Defence Forces and the Government.

Yours sincerely,

WILLIE O'DEA T.D.
Minister for Defence