

Computer Architecture & Systems/
Information & Communication Systems

Research Assignment

Assignment Brief – Overview

Assignment Weighting: 30%

As part of the Government De-Centralisation programme many departments have been earmarked for removal from Dublin and re-location in other parts of the country.

There are many issues which have been raised by the staff affected. Promotional prospects and relevant geographical location of expertise are amongst the issues included.

The Organisation you are concerned with is the EPA, which already has locations outside of Dublin. One of the sections remaining within Dublin is the Statistical Analysis Unit.

This unit takes raw environmental data sent from field operatives sent to their base offices, and in turn forwarded to the SAU; once the SAU has analysed the data the results are sent back to the base offices, but depending on results being nationally significant a copy of these results will be sent to other arms of the organisation; *e.g.* A water quality result in breach of the European Nitrates directive would need to be brought to the attention of the relevant Department Head, and possibly The Minister.

As this department largely deals with data and has little *personal* contact with the rest of the organisation except for the receipt of data and the return of information, your task will be to suggest a mechanism by which some or all of the department can be re-located to The West and still maintain it's functions.

You will be required to suggest communications strategies, map the flow of information in and out of (as well as within) the SAU and explain how you see the unit being divided without loss of function to the organisation as a whole.

Apart from suggesting technical solutions, you will also be required to comment on the effects on personnel involved.

Further details will follow.