

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **SEPTEMBER 2015 COUNCIL MEETING**

- Letter received on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on Fáilte Ireland to extend the “Wild Atlantic Way” tourism trail to Limerick, a copy of the resolution having been sent to the Minister.
- Correspondence received on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, from Leitrim County Council.
- Letter received on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Government to immediately and adequately support services for victims of prostitution and to provide assistance to help those who wish to exit the industry.
- Letter received on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, from the Meetings Administrator, Donegal County Council.
- Letter received on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Clare County Council.
- Letter received on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, from the Office of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister to reimburse the Council €540,000 to cover the cost of the bin waiver scheme.
- Letter received on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Government to (i) immediately stop domestic water charges; (ii) immediately stop the installation of meters across the country; (iii) recognise that Irish Water is not fit for purpose and should be abolished; and (iv) cease the threat of taking water charges from people’s salary, pension and/or benefits.

- Letter received on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015, from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in reply to resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the unsatisfactory situation regarding the marketability of lands designated for the hen harrier.
  - Letter received on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015, from the Office of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in reply to resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the unsatisfactory situation regarding the marketability of lands designated for the hen harrier.
  - Letter received on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, from the Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council.
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## Oifig an Aire

44 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire.

### Office of the Minister

44 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.



**An Roinn Iompair,  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**   
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Tel: +353 1 670 7444    Locall: 1890 443311    Fax: +353 1 604 1183    Web: [www.dttas.ie](http://www.dttas.ie)    Email: [minister@dtas.ie](mailto:minister@dtas.ie)

Date: 15/07/2015



Our Ref: PD/15/8603

Mr Christy O'Connor  
Limerick City & County Council  
Merchant's Quay  
Limerick

Dear Mr O'Connor

I refer to your letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 concerning the resolution adopted by Limerick City and County Council calling on Fáilte Ireland to extend the 'Wild Atlantic Way' tourism trail to Limerick.

While my Department provides the capital funding for investment in tourism offerings such as the Wild Atlantic Way, it is not directly involved in developing or managing these. The development of the Wild Atlantic Way is an operational matter for Fáilte Ireland.

The route of the Wild Atlantic Way was developed with the assistance of consultants Paul Hogarth and Company, and utilised a collaborative approach in which regional steering groups were convened to inform route development. The steering groups comprised Fáilte Ireland, Local Authorities, local LEADER and Development companies and other key agencies such as Udarás na Gaeltachta, the Western Development Commission, and others as were relevant to each particular region. The process involved an extensive study of the coast, a review of existing driving routes, the establishment of route selection criteria, an evaluation of various route options, the identification of the route spine and a comprehensive process of stakeholder, community and public consultation.

It is important for communities to note that the actual route is not simply a touring route but a means to guide and attract visitors to particular areas. All villages, businesses and geographic areas within close proximity of the route are in essence part of the geography of the Wild Atlantic Way. The purpose of the Wild Atlantic Way is to give guidance to visitors as to what there is to see on our western coast, and provide easy access to a range of experiences along the route and so enable local

businesses to take advantage of the benefits of the Wild Atlantic Way. It is an opportunity for communities on and near to the Wild Atlantic Way to focus on how to use the route to generate more tourism revenue, and I encourage communities to capitalise on this and not focus on specific details of the route.

The main objective of the Wild Atlantic Way project is to motivate more overseas visitors to visit the West of Ireland and to give them reasons to “linger longer” in terms of tourism experiences and encourage them to engage with the landscape and communities along the route. It is about encouraging international visitors to choose the West of Ireland as a holiday destination.

While Limerick is not directly on the Wild Atlantic Way, it has an important role given its city status, and its role as a gateway and accommodation hub for the west. It has so much to offer the visitor, but has not been included on the Wild Atlantic Way route as it is not a place where the land meets the Atlantic Ocean in a wild manner. While the river is tidal to the city it is not a ‘Wild Atlantic’ experience. Limerick does offer Wild Atlantic Way travellers an urban experience with its history, sites and estuary/river location, and so is complementary to the Wild Atlantic Way. It is envisaged that this would be highlighted to visitors in all the relevant promotional and marketing material of the route. I am sure that the Wild Atlantic Way will draw increased visitor numbers to the region and, like other towns and cities that are not directly on the route, it will enable Limerick businesses to take advantage of the initiative.

Yours sincerely,



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Paschal Donohoe  
Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport

**From:** Kathleen McGovern Ellis <kellis@leitrimcoco.ie>

**Sent:** 28 July 2015 12:05

**To:** Carlow Co Co; Cavan Co Co; Clare Co Co; Cork Co Co; Donegal Co Co; DunLaoghire/Rathdown CoCo; Fingal Co Co; Galway Co Co; Kerry Co Co ; Kildare Co Co; Kilkenny Co Co; Laois Co Co; Customer Services; Longford Co Co; Louth Co Co; Mayo Co Co; Meath Co Co; Monaghan Co Co; North Tipperary; Offaly Co Co; Roscommon Co Co; Sligo Co Co; South Dublin Co Co; South Tipperary Co Co ; Waterford Co Co; Westmeath County Council ; Wexford Co Co; Wicklow Co Co

**Subject:** Resolutions passed by Leitrim County Council - 6th July 2015

A Chara,

Please find attached two resolutions passed by Leitrim County Council at Council meeting held on 6th July 2015 and it was agreed that these resolutions would be forwarded to all Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen McGovern Ellis  
Chief Executive's Office  
Leitrim County Council.



# Comhairle Contae Liatroma Leitrim County Council

Áras an Chontae  
Cora Droma Rúisc  
Contae Liatroma

Áras an Chontae  
Carrick on Shannon  
Co. Leitrim

Guthán / Telephone 071 9620005 | Facs / Fax 071 9621982  
Suíomh / Web [www.leitrimcoco.ie](http://www.leitrimcoco.ie)  
Ríomhphost / E-mail [corporateservices@leitrimcoco.ie](mailto:corporateservices@leitrimcoco.ie)

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015

Mr. Simon Coveney, TD.,  
Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine,  
Agriculture House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: Single Farm Payment Cuts**

Dear Minister Coveney,

I wish to inform you that at the July meeting of Leitrim County Council the Members unanimously passed the following resolution:

**"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Agriculture and Minister Simon Coveney to reverse, the unjust Single Farm Payment cuts and penalties imposed on farmers, in marginal and disadvantaged areas across rural Ireland. Many farmers are struggling to survive, with loss of income and penalties imposed on farm land which had been actively farmed and properly maintained for generations but was deemed ineligible and not fit for farming in 2013. I also call on the Minister to cease all Land eligibility, ground and aerial satellite inspections, until this unfair situation is resolved."**

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sinead Flynn**  
Meetings Administrator

cc All Local Authorities



# Comhairle Contae Liatroma Leitrim County Council

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23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015

Mr. Simon Coveney, TD.,  
Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine,  
Agriculture House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

## **Re: Fencing on Farms**

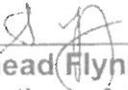
Dear Minister Coveney,

I wish to inform you that at the July meeting of Leitrim County Council the Members unanimously passed the following resolution:

**“That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Simon Coveney not to implement the new regulations in regard to farmers having to get Planning Permission to replace existing fencing or when erecting new fences on their lands”.**

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

  
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Sinead Flynn  
Meetings Administrator

**Cc All Local Authorities**



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

Mr Eugene Griffin  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services & Change Management  
Limerick City & Council  
Merchnats Quay  
Limerick



27 July 2015

Dear Mr Griffin,

I have been asked by the Minister for Justice and Equality, Ms Frances Fitzgerald, T.D. to respond to your letter of 20 April 2015 regarding supports for victims of prostitution.

The Minister has noted the resolution adopted by the Council at its March meeting. The following measures undertaken by the Department may be of interest to the members of the Council.

#### Funding of Ruhama

The Department of Justice and Equality, as well as the Health Service Executive, provide funding to an organisation called Ruhama which supports persons affected by prostitution, including victims of human trafficking who have been sexually exploited in prostitution. Ruhama are the contact point for An Garda Síochána for the provision of assistance to a person involved in prostitution such as emergency accommodation or immediate welfare needs and play an important role specifically in supporting victims of human trafficking who have been sexually exploited in prostitution. Funding of €225,000, the full amount requested by them, was provided to Ruhama by the Department for 2015.

#### Reach Project

The Department of Justice and Equality is also a lead partner with Ruhama in an EU funded project (REACH) which is focused on campaigns promoting the message of zero tolerance of human trafficking as form of violence against women.

There are three strands to this project:

- Raising awareness of the issue (including rights of victims and supports available) among victims and potential victims;
- Promoting a message of zero tolerance of human trafficking as a form of violence against women and girls, among men and boys;
- Developing innovative training and support to front-line actors including the development of a 'mobile app'.

The campaign aimed at women and girls vulnerable to trafficking involved an awareness raising initiative aimed at victims or potential victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation on the island of Ireland and was run in the early months of 2005. The message conveyed focused on raising/increasing awareness of support services, rights and entitlements that are available to women and girls who are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in Ireland. Of note was that the development of this campaign was informed by a process of engagement with actual victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and other women in prostitution who were vulnerable to it.

Another element of the Project was the development and roll out of an awareness raising campaign to promote a message of zero tolerance of human trafficking as a form of violence against women and girls, among men and boys. The main objective of this campaign was to speak to most men who do not buy sex and to address them in a way they see themselves (as ordinary men) and appeal to their decency.

Prostitution thrives most in isolation and anonymity but it struggles to survive when surrounded by a sense of interdependence and communal responsibility.

The campaign slogan 'We don't Buy it' had the intention of giving the majority a voice and a way of reclaiming the 'norm for men'. This slogan offered a strong guiding light for young teens and a warm, positive and attractive identity to encourage the soft buyer to redefine himself while at the same time allowing a direct and uncompromising assault on the myths upon which the justification for prostitution are built. The campaign was launched by the Minister for Justice & Equality in April of 2015 and was delivered by a multi-media mix (outdoor, public relations, online and social) which combined both traditional and digital forms to ensure targeted reach and maximum attention.

#### Dormant Account Funding

The Department of Justice and Equality has also recently procured Dormant Account funds to support a specific Ruhama Project. This funding will support two training programmes specifically designed to support women in prostitution, at different life stages towards social inclusion and a brighter future for themselves and their children.

Dormant Account Funding was also provided to Doras Luimini to employ an Anti-Trafficking Floating support worker to work with people affected by prostitution and trafficking.

The Minister wishes to thank the Council for their interest in this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Quattrociocchi  
Private Secretary to the  
Minister for Justice and Equality



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council**

www.ccdhunnangall.ie www.donegalcoco.ie

12<sup>th</sup> August, 2015

To: All Local Authorities

A Chara,

I write to inform you that the Members of Donegal County Council at their July Council Meeting adopted and approved the following resolution:-

"For this Council to request that An Taoiseach Enda Kenny to formally ask the US Ambassador to Ireland to include Ireland in the next round of visa waivers for our undocumented Irish, and that this Council contacts all other Councils to request same."

Members asked that it be circulated to All Local Authorities and the Taoiseach's Office for consideration.

Yours Faithfully,

*P.P. Anne Marie Rayford*  
L Ward  
Meetings Administrator





COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

17<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.



**Our Ref: July 15-18/MMcN/MMcI**

## To All Local Authorities,

A Chara,

I wish to bring to your attention the terms of a resolution passed by the elected members of this Council at their July meeting.

“In view of the extreme shortage of housing in County Clare and the difficulties elected members have in fully engaging with the process, I am asking the C.E.O. of Clare County Council, the Commissioner for Data Protection, the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Housing – what specific legal provisions are there to prevent members of this Council from accessing information held by the local authority with regard to housing policy, housing provision, housing allocation and any other housing matters, and to address any such legislative anomalies so as to remove restrictions on local authority members fully exercising their mandated role as public representatives.”

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Mise, le meas,

Michael McNamara,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services.

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha  
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bothar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir

Corporate Services  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

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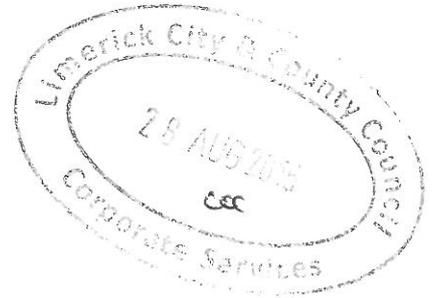
**Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil**  
Environment, Community and Local Government



**Oifig an Aire**  
Office of the Minister

26<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

Mr. Eugene Griffin,  
Meetings Administrator,  
Limerick City & County Council,  
Corporate Services and Change Management,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick.



**RE: REP1362/AK/15**

Dear Mr. Griffin,

I have been asked by Mr. Alan Kelly, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, to refer to your recent correspondence in connection with waivers.

Among the measures included in the Government's national waste policy, A Resource Opportunity - Waste Management Policy in Ireland, which was published in July 2012, was the establishment of an inter-Departmental working group to report to Government with options on minimising the impact of waste charges on low-income households.

The working group, which comprises representatives of this Department and the Departments of Social Protection; Public Expenditure and Reform; Finance; and the Tánaiste's Office, submitted its second report to Government in July 2013. Government considered the report and, given the complexity of the issues involved, including the fact that the vast majority of households have moved away from local authority collection and have engaged private waste collectors on whom it would be difficult to impose any obligation to provide a waiver system, mandated the working group to continue to examine the issue, with a view to submitting a third report to Government in due course.



Currently the operation of bin waiver schemes are at the discretion of each local authority and as such funding must come from their own budget. This Department is not in a position at present to provide funding for waivers and given that the vast majority of local authorities no longer collect waste and that the market is now serviced by a diverse range of private operators, where the fees charged and services offered vary across the country, it is becoming increasingly apparent that introducing a national waiver scheme in the context of an open market for waste collection would be highly complex.

Yours sincerely,

  
Larry Kelly,

**Private Secretary**



Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

31 August 2015

Mr. Christy O'Connor  
Limerick City & County Council  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny T.D., dated 27 August 2015 regarding a recent meeting of Limerick City & County Council.

A copy of your correspondence has been forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr. Alan Kelly T.D., for his attention and direct response to you.

Yours sincerely,

*Michelle McKiernan*

Michelle McKiernan  
Assistant Private Secretary  
to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01-6194000  
E-mail: [privateoffice@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:privateoffice@taoiseach.gov.ie)



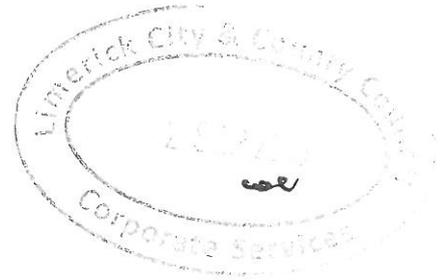


Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2.

Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

7 September 2015

Mr. Christy O'Connor  
Meetings Administrator  
Limerick City & County Council  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick



**PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.**

Our Ref: 2015/53730N /PF

Dear Mr. O'Connor

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, TD concerning a resolution on hen harriers.

I will undertake to bring your correspondence to the Minister's attention at the next practical juncture. In the interim I have forwarded your correspondence for the attention of relevant Department officials.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Lennox  
Private Secretary



*An Roinn*  
*Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*  
Department of  
*Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*  
*Oifig an Aire*  
*Office of the Minister*

Mr Christy O'Connor  
Limerick City & County Council  
Merchants Quay  
County Limerick



31 August 2015

Our Ref: 15/000337  
Your Ref:

Dear Mr O'Connor

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence to Heather Humphreys, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, in connection with Limerick City & County Council's Resolution concerning Hen Harrier designations.

Enquiries are being made on your behalf and I hope to revert to you shortly.

Yours sincerely

Nessa Foley  
Private Secretary



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
ÁRAS AN CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNTY HALL RIVERSIDE SLIGO

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17th September, 2015



To: **Each Local Authority (by e-mail).**

At the September Meeting of Sligo County Council, held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, the Members agreed the following resolution and asked that it would be circulated to all Local Authorities:

*“Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to return to the Dáil with an open mind and listen to the very real concerns of T.D.s before he signs new Regulations into law on the remaining Sections of the 2012 Credit Union Act”.*

  
Kevin Colreavy  
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Section  
Sligo County Council  
County Hall  
Riverside  
Sligo

Tel: 071-9111111