

CORRESPONDENCE

JULY 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- Letter received on 29th May, 2017, from Mark Byrne, Regulatory and Administration, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on TII to make direct arrangements for the gathering and removal of litter along national roads in the administrative area of the Council.
- Letter received on 30th May, 2017, from Eugene Clonan, Director, Irish Coast Guard.
- Letter received on 1st June, 2017, from the Office of the Minister for Finance in reply to resolution adopted by the Council urging NAMA and the Minister for Finance to halt any sales of loans or properties to vulture funds, and instead use these resources to provide social and affordable housing.
- Letter received on 1st June, 2017, from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in reply to resolution adopted by the Council opposing the closure of any post offices across rural Ireland and calling on the Government to commit to the survival of the post office network by encouraging people to use it to collect their payments from Government Departments, instead of insisting on electronic transfer.
- Letter received on 6th June, 2017, from Pádraig Corkery, National Asset Management Agency, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council urging NAMA and the Minister for Finance to halt any sales of loans or properties to vulture funds, and instead use these resources to provide social and affordable housing.
- E-Mail received on 13th June, 2017, from Deputy Tom Neville in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, and the Oireachtas Members for Limerick, be contacted urging them to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 2004, to abolish sale of a property as a grounds for terminating a tenancy.
- Letter received on 16th June, 2017, from the Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council.
- Letter received on 16th June, 2017, from the Meetings Administrator, Tipperary County Council.
- Letter received on 19th June, 2017, from the Meetings Administrator, Tipperary County Council.

- Letter received on 19th June, 2017, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister to retract the policy that has introduced the roll-out of the 'Open Library' initiative across Local Authorities.
 - Letter received on 22nd June, 2017, from Liam O'Sullivan, Managing Director, Gas Networks Ireland, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on Gas Networks Ireland to ensure that the proposed Gas Pipeline from Foynes to Kerry Co-Op Plant in Listowel take into account the location, the design and capacity of the pipe for future potential demand, i.e. the industrial landbank at Tarbert / Ballylongford, the Power Station in Tarbert, the existing manufacturing businesses in Glin and the future possibility that the people of Glin Town would have access to domestic gas supply.
 - Letter received on 3rd July, 2017, from the Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council.
 - Letter received on 11th July, 2017, from the Office of the Minister for Rural and Community Development, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to ease the criteria at application stage to applicants of LEADER funding, particularly in relation to planning and charitable status, and calling on the Department to simplify the bureaucracy of the application form for applicants.
 - Letter received on 14th July, 2017, from the Meetings Administrator, South Dublin County Council.
 - Letter received on 19th July, 2017, from the Meetings Administrator, South Dublin County Council.
 - Letter received on 19th July, 2017, from Councillor Eddy Newman, Lord Mayor of Manchester.
-

Ms. Tina Knox
Administrative Officer
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick, V94 EH90



Dáta | Date

26 May 2017

Ár dTag | Our Ref.

TII17-97470

Bhur dTag | Your Ref.

Dear Ms. Knox,

Thank you for your letter of 24 April 2017 requesting that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) make direct arrangements for the collection of litter on national roads in County Limerick. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

I can confirm that the roles required by TII and local authorities in this matter are set out in Section 19(2) of the Roads Act (as amended) which states that:

"The Authority shall, as far as possible, arrange for the functions shall be performed on its behalf by the relevant road authority, but in any case where the Authority considers that it would be more convenient, more expeditious, more effective or more economical that the function concerned should be performed by it, it may decide accordingly."

On the basis of the above, TII implemented three regional motorway maintenance and renewals contracts (MMaRC) to undertake road maintenance activities on the motorways. In the case of Limerick City and County Council's administrative area, the M7 and short sections of the M20 and M21 are covered by the MMaRC contracts. Thus litter collection and other maintenance activities are undertaken by TII's contractor for the aforementioned sections of national roads.

It is intended to investigate the feasibility of extending the operation of the contracts and the Council's resolution with regard to litter collection will be considered in this context.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Byrne
Regulatory & Administration



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



Irish Coast Guard
DIREC'TOIR NA hÉIREANN

May 2017



**Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon,
Limerick City & County Council,
Dooradoyle Road,
Dooradoyle
Limerick**

Dear Mayor O'Hanlon,

On behalf of everybody in the Coast Guard, I would like to thank you for forwarding the Book of Condolence regarding the crew of Rescue 116 and their families after the tragic events in Blacksod, Co Mayo.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have received so many letters and cards from across the country from people who knew or worked with R116 and it has been hugely supportive to know that their work is held in such high esteem.

Your sentiments are greatly appreciated by all of us involved with the Coast Guard and we thank you for your support during this very sad time.

Yours sincerely,

**Eugene Clonan,
Director,
Irish Coast Guard**



Ref: 17/1285/MF

31st May, 2017

Ms. Tina Knox
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick

Dear Ms. Knox,

The Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of 16th May regarding the resolution recently adopted by Limerick City and County Council.

Yours sincerely


Justin Dolan
Private Secretary





**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Office of the Minister

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Ms Tina Knox
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31st May 2017

Our Ref: CG-2017 345

Dear Ms Knox,

I refer to your recent correspondence to the Taoiseach regarding the Post Office Network in rural Ireland which was forwarded to me for direct reply.

It is Government policy that An Post remains a strong, viable company and in a position to provide a high quality, nationwide postal service and that it maintains a nationwide customer-focused network of post offices in the community. However, the postal sector as a whole is undergoing systemic change as a result of the growth of the digital economy. The continuing decline in mail volumes, combined with the ongoing impact of e-substitution on retail businesses transacted through the post office network, is a significant challenge for the company and has an impact on its financial well-being.

A fundamental review of An Post, including the post office network, which will identify the strategic changes and restructuring necessary to maintain the company on a sound financial footing is ongoing.

The Government is acutely aware of the value placed on post offices by communities in both rural and urban areas. Managing the scale of the challenge facing An Post will require a focus on innovation and new business models by the company as well as the development of new commercial strategies. In so far as the commercial and operational activities of the company are

Fáiltítear roimh comhfhreagras i nGaeilge

concerned, the board and management of the company are constantly working to ensure that the services the company provides are developed and delivered to meet the needs of its customers. As a shareholder, however, I have a strong interest in the commercial and financial position of the company and regularly liaise with the company in this regard. The future sustainability of An Post and its relevance to consumers is recognised as an important priority for all involved.

On foot of a reconfiguration of Government Departments in July last year, responsibility for the post office network transferred to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. That Department published the Final Report of the Post Office Hub Working Group in March in which it was outlined that they are pursuing the possible opportunities for services such as community banking and motor tax renewal for the network. Arrangements are in hand to reassign responsibility for the post office network to my Department given my overall responsibility for An Post and the recommendations of the Post Office Hub Working Group will continue to be finalised.

Decisions in relation to the operation of the post office network are operational matters for the Board and management of An Post and not ones in which I, as Minister, have a statutory function. Nonetheless, I will continue to monitor the position closely.

I trust this clarifies the position for you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Denis Naughten", is written over a horizontal line.

Denis Naughten, T.D.

Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment



Gníomhaireacht Náisiúnta um Bhainistíocht Sócmhainní
National Asset Management Agency

Ms Tina Knox
Administrative Officer
Corporate Services
Limerick City & County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick



02/06/2017

Re: Limerick City & County Council resolution

Ms Knox,

I refer to your correspondence, received by this office on 19 May 2017, in relation to a resolution adopted by the members of Limerick City & County Council.

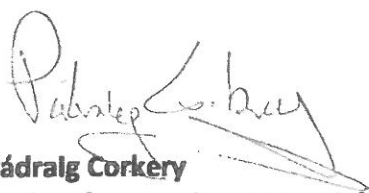
If I might outline how NAMA operates, it might be of assistance to the members. The first relates to NAMA's role in relation to properties. NAMA does not directly own or manage properties. NAMA's role is that of a secured lender, like a bank. Properties securing the loans we have acquired remain under the control of either the original owner or, in the case of enforcement, the appointed receiver and it is these parties that remain responsible for the efficient management of the properties. This includes the management of the selling process, where a property is being sold.

NAMA's established policy is that the sale of loans and properties by debtors and receivers should be openly marketed to ensure that the best price available in the market is achieved at the time of the sale. This allows all interested parties to bid for assets and loans in an open and transparent manner, while also ensuring that NAMA achieves maximum return to the taxpayer. To exclude a certain sector of potential purchasers would prevent NAMA from maximising the return to the taxpayer, as is set out in the NAMA legislation.

I would also point the members towards NAMA's commercial objective of funding the construction, on a commercial basis, of 20,000 residential properties in Ireland by end-2020. This represents a significant contribution by NAMA to the supply of residential properties in Ireland, and will also be subject to the standard Part V obligations. Between 2014 and the end of March 2017, NAMA had funded the construction of over 4,840 residential properties, while a further 2,064 homes are under construction, and funding has been approved for an additional 1,114 properties which have received planning permission but are not yet under construction.

I hope the above explains NAMA's role and is helpful to the members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pádraig Corkery', written over a horizontal line.

Pádraig Corkery
National Asset Management Agency

From: Tom Neville <Tom.Neville@Oireachtas.ie>

Sent: 13 June 2017 15:40

To: Tina Knox

Subject: Resolution adopted by Limerick City and County Council.

Dear Tina,

Thank you for your email. I have taken up this issue directly with Simon Coveney, TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government

Regards,

Tom

Tom Neville, TD.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

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16th June, 2017



TO: **Each Local Authority.**

A Chara,

At the Ordinary Meeting of Sligo County Council held on 12th June, 2017, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities for support:

“Noting that the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is primarily funded by county and city councils, who contribute in excess of €10 million per year to the agency: and noting that the Board of the agency is composed of 11 members (8 Chief Executives of county and city councils, 3 officials from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and no elected representative): and further noting the significant role of the agency in terms of influencing government policy on local government: and noting that councils and elected councillors are not provided with any information as to the activities of the LGMA: this Council requests the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) to provide a briefing for elected members module on “The role, funding and activities of the Local Government Management Agency” as part of its annual Training Programme: and further we request the AILG to ensure that an elected councillor will be included as a speaker at the said briefing.”

Mise, le meas,


Kevin Colreavy
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Section
Sligo County Council
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Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigi Cathartha,
Cluain Meala,
Co. Thiobraid Árann

Tipperary County Council,
Civic Offices, Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary

Comhairle Contae
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NOM 1048

13th June, 2017.

TO/
Each Local Authority.

A Chara,

At a meeting of Tipperary County Council held on 12th June 2017 the following Notice of Motion was passed and it was agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities:-

“That Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Health to take the necessary measures to make Regional Health Forum Committees relevant”.

Mise, le meas,

Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
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Oifigí Cathartha,
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NOM 1078

13th June, 2017.

TO/
Each Local Authority.

A Chara,

At a meeting of Tipperary County Council held on 12th June 2017 the following Notice of Motion was passed and it was agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities:-

“That this Council calls on the government to extend children’s allowance for parents who have children in Third Level Education but have no access to grants due to their before tax earnings. The extended children’s allowance could be capped at a level which will not be extended to those with very high earnings”.

Mise, le meas,

Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government


Rebuilding
Ireland
Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness



16 June 2017

Ms Tina Knox
Administrative Officer
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Merchants Quay
County Limerick



RE: REP 1203/SC/17

Dear Ms Knox,

I refer to your representations on behalf of Limerick City and County Council in relation to My Open Library.

The 'My Open Library' service is an initiative under Opportunities for All, the national public library strategy 2013-2017. It forms part of an overall strategy to address customer demand and grants members the freedom and flexibility to use the library during the hours that suit them best.

Open Library pilots were introduced in Tullamore, Banagher and Tubbercurry libraries from November 2014 and feedback from users has been very positive to date. The service has made community spaces and collections available to library members and communities who would otherwise be unable to access them, with each library operating the service now open to the community for 98 hours per week.

The Department is satisfied that the learning from the pilots, and the positive feedback from library users, justifies extending the pilot phase to a further 20 library branches. The learning gathered from this phase will inform and shape the future development and implementation of the service across the broader library network.

It is unfortunate that the nature and purpose of the 'My Open Library' service has been misrepresented and misunderstood. 'My Open Library' seeks only to extend availability of an essential community service. Staffed opening hours will not be reduced. Similarly, staff levels will not be reduced; rather the Department is working with local authorities through the workforce planning process to increase staff levels across the library service.

The Department intends to continue with the roll out of the extended pilot. It is expected that the service will add significant value to the library services operated by the participating authorities. A full review of the pilots will be conducted before any decision is taken to roll out the service more broadly across the library service.

Yours sincerely,

PO: 
Niamh Redmond
Private Secretary

Ceanncheathrú
Bóthar na nOibreacha Gáis
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Tina Knox
Administrative Officer
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick



21st June 2017

Dear Ms Knox,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th May 2017 and my apologies for the delay in responding to same due to my absence on leave. I note the details of the resolution adopted by Limerick City and County Council.

Gas Networks Ireland develops, owns and operates the natural gas Transmission and Distribution networks, under license from the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), on behalf of the Irish state. Extensions of the network and connections to it are considered in accordance with the Connections Policy approved by the CER. The Connections Policy sets out the process and requirements, both technical and economic, applicable to new connections to the Gas network. The Gas demand associated with the Kerry Food Ingredients plant and the Listowel town load together, justify the laying of a Distribution connection only. The project has been approved by the Commission for Energy Regulation and is already at an advanced stage

This pipeline when constructed, will have the capacity to cater for some additional distribution level demand along the route. However, the scale of demand associated with a Power station, would require a high pressure Transmission connection and could not be accommodated on a distribution level connection. In the context of potential additional loads at the Industrial land banks in Tarbert/Ballylongford or a new gas fired Power Station at Tarbert, Gas Networks Ireland would welcome all enquiries where there are sufficient load details currently available and we would be happy to engage with any such businesses and carry out a detailed assessment with a view to proposing a suitable connection solution.

I trust the above clarifies the position but if I can be of any assistance in the future please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Liam O'Sullivan
Managing Director

Líonraí Gáis Éireann cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, atá corpraithe in Éirinn leis an uimhir chláráithe 555744 agus a tá hoifig chláráithe ag Bóthar na nOibreacha Gáis, Corcaigh, T12 RX96. Gas Networks Ireland a designated activity company, limited by shares, incorporated in Ireland with registered number 555744 and having its registered office at Gasworks Road, Cork, T12 RX96.

Stiúrthóirí/ Directors: Michael G. O'Sullivan, Sean Casey, Brendan Murphy, Liam O'Sullivan.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
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3rd July, 2017




TO: **Each Local Authority.**

A Chara,

At the Ordinary Meeting of Sligo County Council held today, 3rd July, 2017 the following resolution was unanimously agreed. It was further agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities for support:

“That Sligo County Council calls on the Government to prioritise ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.”

Mise, le meas,


Kevin Colreavy
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Section
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**An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta**

**Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs**

Oifig an Aire Stáit
Office of the Minister of State

Ms Tina Knox
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick



07 July 2017

Our Ref: R17/005528

Dear Ms Knox

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence, dated 05/07/2017, to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr Michael Ring, T.D., in relation to the resolution that was adopted at a recent meeting of Limerick City and County Council with respect to LEADER funding applications.

I will bring your correspondence to the attention of the Minister as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

PP: Sinead Harrington

Anthony McCarthy
Private Secretary to Michael Ring TD
Minister for Rural and Community Development

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To: Each Local Authority

12.07.17

Re: Motion Agreed at May Meeting of South Dublin County Council M01/0517

A Chara

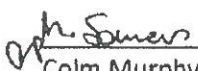
At a meeting held on the 8th May 2017 of South Dublin County Council, members agreed to circulate the following to all Local Authorities for support.

Members of South Dublin County Council are calling on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone to increase investment in Early Childhood Care and Education to ensure that children have access to quality, sustainable and affordable childcare with decent pay and conditions for professionals in the sector.

The Council recognises that Early Years Educators are hugely dedicated professionals who care for and educate children during the most crucial years of their development. However the Irish Government lags behind other European countries in terms of how much we invest in Early Years Education. As a result, many qualified professional are struggling to make ends meet and providers are struggling to stay open.

We call on Minister Zappone to put children first and invest in quality childcare and Early Years Education. We ask the Chief Executive to forward a copy of this motion to Minister Zappone and to copy it to all other City and County Councils.

Mise le meas


Colm Murphy
Meeting Administrator
Corporate Performance and Change Management



To: Each Local Authority

18.07.17

Re: Motion Agreed at May Meeting of South Dublin County Council M04/0517

A Chara

At a meeting held on the 8th May 2017 of South Dublin County Council, members agreed to circulate the following to all Local Authorities for support.

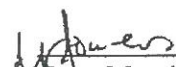
"In regards to Cyberbullying and children, we ask SDCC

1) That SDCC look at what can be done in Libraries in all of SDCC to combat this growing and worrying issue. To ask that a campaign be looked at to deal with this issue that poses a serious threat to many children within our area. This should include all types of Social Media.

2) That SDCC write to the Minister for Children , Minister for Justice and Minister for Education and ask that they work together to combat this serious matter with both Legislation and an Education programme in our schools and Education campaign for Parents"

Copy it to all other City and County Councils.

Mise le meas


PP Colm Murphy
Meeting Administrator
Corporate Performance and Change Management



TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER



Manchester, July 2017

As Lord Mayor of the City of Manchester, I want to thank you for passing on your kind expressions of sympathy. It truly helped to know that the people of Manchester were in your thoughts during these difficult days and we appreciate your friendship and concern.

These acts of terror seek to divide us by undermining our core values which include respect and tolerance but the people of Manchester have responded with courage, incredible togetherness and resolve. There is no doubt in my mind that Manchester will recover from this terrible tragedy and emerge a more resilient and cohesive city.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Eddy Newman
Lord Mayor