

CORRESPONDENCE

JANUARY 2015 NEWCASTLE WEST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

- Letter received on 28th November, 2014, from the Department of Social Protection in reply to resolution adopted by the Municipal District of Newcastle West calling on the Minister to move from the system of using Dates of Birth, normally used in relation to transactions with Public Bodies, to the use of PPSN Nos.
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An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí,
Seirbhísí Leasa Shóisialaigh
Grianán na Sionna
Cora Droma Rúisc
Co Liatroma



Department of Social Protection,
Social Welfare Services
Shannon Lodge
Carrick-on-Shannon
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Case Number: REPS-2014-1906

26th November 2014

Dear Tina,

I refer to your correspondence dated 20th November 2014 outlining the resolution that was adopted by the Municipal District of Newcastle West, Limerick.

A PPS Number is a reference number established for specific public service purposes by legislation. At the core of the PPS Number is the idea that it is a device to assist in, and enhance the efficiency of, the provision of public services to members of the public. Those public services vary greatly, ranging from applying for a driving licence, to the provision of health and education services.

The current legislation governing the use of the PPS Number is contained in the Social Welfare Consolidation Act, 2005 (as amended). Only bodies specified in statute or their agents can use the PPS Number. Section 262 of the Act of 2005 allows the PPS Number to be used by a specified body in certain limited ways in the course of a "transaction" with a member of the public. The section requires that the service being supplied must entail a public function which relates to a "natural person" i.e. not a private function by a private company.

Persons are required by section 262 to provide their PPS Numbers to Specified Bodies for the purpose of a "transaction". Provision is also made in the section for sharing a person's PPS Number between Specified Bodies.

The section concludes with an exhaustive list of persons (Schedule 5) who may use a PPS Number or who may seek to have same disclosed to them and makes it an offence for persons not listed to use PPS Numbers or otherwise seek the disclosure of same.

Yours sincerely

Edel Mc Gloin
Client Identity Services