

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF  
ADARE-RATHKEALE**

**FEBRUARY, 2018**

- Letter received on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in response to request for advertising campaign warning of the risks of engaging with rogue traders and builders.
- Letter received on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) regarding the National Speed Limit Review.
- Letter received on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in relation to ongoing concerns at the lack of adequate waste water treatment facilities at Askeaton, Co. Limerick.



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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Mr. Tom O'Callaghan  
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale  
Corporate Services  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick  
V94 EH90



24 January 2018

Our Reference: MIN/2017/634

Dear Mr. O'Callaghan,

I am directed by the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr Charlie Flanagan, T.D. to refer to your letter dated 13 November 2017.

The Minister would like to thank you for taking the time to write to him and has noted the points which you have raised.

As you may be aware the programme for Government includes a commitment to support and prioritise community crime prevention.

The Programme for Government underlines the need for close engagement between An Garda Síochána and local communities and this is an essential feature of the strong community policing ethos which has long been central to policing in this jurisdiction. You may be aware that as part of the overall strategy to oppose criminality, the Garda authorities pursue a range of partnerships with community stakeholders, including the farming organisations. There are a range of partnership initiatives which have been established between An Garda Síochána and important rural-based organisations such as the Irish Farmers Association, Muintir na Tíre and other rural community organisations, including the well established Community Alert Programme, the ongoing work of the Metal Theft Forum, the Crimestoppers campaign highlighting the Theft of Livestock, the Theftstop initiative in relation to farm equipment, and the highly successful Garda Text Alert Scheme which is available in every Garda Division in the country and now has over 130,000 subscribers.

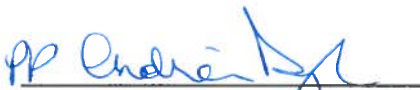
In addition to the extensive community policing and crime prevention measures which are

implemented by An Garda Síochána, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government is responsible for the Seniors Alerts Scheme which provides grant assistance towards the purchase and installation of personal monitored alarms for older persons of limited means. The objective of the Seniors Alert Scheme (SAS) is to encourage community support for vulnerable older people in our communities through the provision of personal monitored alarms to enable older persons, of limited means, to continue to live securely in their homes with confidence, independence and peace of mind. Funding is available under the scheme towards the purchase of equipment by a registered organisation i.e. personal alarm and pendant. Funding is made available by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The equipment will be funded via Pobal and made available through community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations registered with Pobal under the SAS. Further information can be found on the following website: <https://www.pobal.ie/Beneficiaries/Seniors%20Alert%20Scheme/Pages/default.aspx>

An Garda Síochána provide extensive crime prevention and home security advice as part of their Community Policing role. In addition, Garda Crime Prevention Officers are available to give advice to householders, community groups and businesses and there is also a range of crime prevention advice published on the Garda website.

The Minister has arranged for a copy of your correspondence to be sent to An Garda Síochána for their attention.

Yours sincerely



Alan McGreevey  
Private Secretary to the  
Minister for Justice and Equality

**Mr. Tom O'Callaghan**  
Corporate Services  
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Dáta | Date

1 February 2018

Ár dTag | Our Ref.

TII17-100229

Bhur dTag | Your Ref.

Dear Mr. O'Callaghan,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December 2017 requesting TII attends a briefing session in relation to the National Speed Limit Review. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

I regret to inform you that due to staff resource constraints, TII is unable to accede to your request for a representative to attend briefing sessions at the locations suggested in your letter. On matters such as the National Speed Limit Review, TII liaise directly with the engineering sections of local authorities, who then engage with Elected Members, An Garda Síochána, the public and other interested parties as part of the process. I can confirm that TII has met the relevant road engineers from Limerick City and County Council in relation to the National Speed Limit Review on 31 August 2017.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark Byrne**  
Regulatory and Administration Unit

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18 January 2017

Dear Mr. O'Callaghan,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 in relation to ongoing concerns at the lack of adequate waste water treatment facilities at Askeaton, Co. Limerick, with thanks.

The EPA conducted a site visit of this plant on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016. No evidence of raw untreated sewage discharging from this plant was observed during the site inspection. It was also confirmed that an Imhoff tank is in place which provides primary treatment for the agglomeration. Please be advised, that the section "untreated waste water" in the EPA's publication entitled, "Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2016", only lists agglomerations where there is no treatment in place.

It is Irish Water's responsibility to construct a new waste water treatment plant (WWTP) and ancillary works at this site and they provided the following update on progress with this work last year: *"the Askeaton WWTP is currently being reviewed for Gate 2 approval. If approved, the next step would be to proceed with the detailed design, planning and procurement stages. It should be noted however that Askeaton is not included in the current CIP '17-'21 and will be subject to funding availability to proceed to construction stage (Gate 3)."* The management of this work is under Irish Water's control, so Irish Water is best placed to outline the specific reasons for any delay.

The EPA will continue to monitor the operation of the existing WWTP to ensure that the current infrastructure is being operated as efficiently as possible.