

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference CELTC Conferences

Name of Conference FINANCE ACT

Location of Conference CARLINGFORD Co. DUBLIN

Date of Conference 5th - 7th - JANUARY

Summary of Conference Content

The objective of this conference is
to provide delegates with an overview
of the 2017 Finance Act.

The conference identifies key areas
such as Property Tax, Corporation Taxes
and new taxes such as the "SUGAR TAX"
and the implications in terms of revenue
generation.

The conference also provided a
general overview on the legislative
changes arising from the Finance
BILL 2017

Signed: 

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND SUBS

11 JAN 2013

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences

Name of Conference Finance Act 2017

Location of Conference Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford

Date of Conference January 5th to the 7th



Summary of Conference Content

The conference set out the main changes in the areas of taxation, social welfare, health, housing, education, employment and other areas. Below is an overview of the content of the conference on measures announced in the Finance Act 2017.

Taxation

Income tax

The **standard rate income tax band** for all earners is increasing by €750. This means, for example, an increase from €33,800 to €34,550 for single individuals and from €42,800 to €43,550 for married one earner couples.

The **Home Carer Tax Credit** will increase from €1,100 to €1,200. The **Earned Income Credit** will increase from €950 to €1,150. This is relevant for taxpayers earning self-employed trading or professional income in certain cases and for business owner/managers who are ineligible for a PAYE credit on their salary income.

Mortgage interest relief is being extended for remaining recipients (owner occupiers who took out qualifying mortgages between 2004 and 2012) on a tapered basis. 75% of the existing 2017 relief will be continued into 2018, 50% into 2019 and 25% into 2020. The relief will cease entirely from 2021.

Universal Social Charge (USC)

Incomes of €13,000 or less will continue to be exempt from USC in 2018. Once your income is over this limit, you will pay the relevant rate of USC on all of your income as follows:

- €0 to €12,012 @ 0.5%
- €12,012 to €19,372 @ 2%
- €19,372 to €70,044 @ 4.75%
- €70,044+ @ 8%

Medical card holders and individuals aged 70 years and older whose aggregate income does not exceed €60,000 will now pay a maximum USC rate of 2%.

Excise Duties

Tobacco Products Tax

The excise duty on a packet of 20 cigarettes is being increased by 50 cents (including VAT) with a pro-rata increase on the other tobacco products, and an additional 25c on roll your own tobacco. This took effect from midnight on 10 October 2017.

Sugar Tax

A tax on sugar sweetened drinks is to be introduced on 1 April 2018. The tax will apply to sugar sweetened drinks with a sugar content between 5 grams and 8 grams per 100ml at a rate of 20c per litre. A second rate will apply for drinks with a sugar content of 8 grams or above at 30c per litre.

Benefit in Kind on Electric Vehicles

A 0% benefit-in-kind (BIK) rate is being introduced for electric vehicles for a period of 1 year. This will allow for a comprehensive review of benefit in kind on vehicles which will inform decisions for the next Budget. Electricity used in the workplace for charging vehicles will also be exempt from benefit-in-kind.

Social Welfare

The total social protection budget in 2018 will be €20 billion.

Increases in social welfare payments

Weekly social welfare payments will increase by €5 per week with proportional increases for qualified adults and those on reduced rates of payment (see rates table below). This also applies to employment programmes such as Community Employment (CE), Tús and Rural Social Scheme. (March 2018)

Those aged 26 and under who are getting a reduced rate of **Jobseeker's Allowance** will receive the full €5 increase. (March 2018)

The weekly rate for a **qualified child** will increase by €2 from €29.80 to €31.80 (March 2018)

State Pensions will increase by €5 per week with proportional increases for qualified adults and those on reduced rates of payment. (March 2018)

Working Family Payment

Working Family Payment (formerly called Family Income Supplement) income thresholds will increase by €10 for families with up to 3 children. (March 2018)

Back to Work Family Dividend

The Back to Work Family Dividend scheme which aims to support families to move from social welfare to employment, and which was due to end on 31 March 2018, will now be retained.

Fuel Allowance

The Fuel Allowance season will be extended by 1 week, from 26 to 27 weeks, into the first week of April 2018.

Free Travel Scheme

An additional €10 million in funding is being provided towards the Free Travel Scheme.

Christmas Bonus

A Christmas Bonus of 85% will be paid in December 2017 to people getting a long-term social welfare payment (minimum payment of €20).

Telephone Support Allowance

A new Telephone Support Allowance at a weekly rate of €2.50 will be introduced for those getting the Living Alone Allowance and who are eligible for the Fuel Allowance. (June 2018)

One parent families

The earnings disregard for the **One-Parent Family Payment** and the **Jobseeker's Transition payment** will increase by €20 per week, from €110 to €130 per week (March 2018).

Rural Social Scheme

The number of places on the Rural Social Scheme will increase by 250.

School Meals Programme

An additional €1.7 million is being provided towards the School Meals Programme for newly designated DEIS schools.

Youth Employment Support Scheme

A new Youth Employment Support Scheme will be introduced in 2018 to support long-term unemployed young people back into the workplace.

Social Insurance Payments					
Maximum Weekly Rates Note: Commencement date of rate increases is week beginning 26 March 2018	Personal Rate		Increase for a Qualified Adult		Qualifie d Child Increase 2017/201 8
	2017	2018	2017	2018	
State Pension (Contributory)					

Social Insurance Payments

Maximum Weekly Rates Note: Commencement date of rate increases is week beginning 26 March 2018	Personal Rate		Increase for a Qualified Adult		Qualifie d Child Increase 2017/201 8
Under Age 80	€238.3 0	€243.3 0	€158.8 0 (Note1)	€162.1 0 (Note 1)	€31.80
Age 80 and over	€248.3 0	€253.3 0	€213.5 0 (Note 2)	€218.0 0 (Note 2)	€31.80
Widow's/Widower's/Surviv ing Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension/Deserted Wife's Benefit					
Under Age 66	€198.5 0	€203.5 0			
Aged 66 and under Age 80	€238.3 0	€243.3 0			
Aged 80 and over	€248.3 0	€253.3 0			€31.80
Invalidity Pension	€198.5 0	€203.5 0	€141.7 0	€145.3 0	€31.80
Telephone Support Allowance	€2.50 per week with effect from June 2018				
Carer's Benefit/Constant Attendance Allowance	€210.0 0	€215.0 0			€31.80

Social Insurance Payments

Maximum Weekly Rates Note: Commencement date of rate increases is week beginning 26 March 2018	Personal Rate		Increase for a Qualified Adult		Qualifie d Child Increase 2017/201 8
	2017	2018	2017	2018	
Disablement Benefit	€224.0 0	€229.0 0			
Jobseeker's/Illness/Health & Safety/Injury Benefit	€193.0 0	€198.0 0	€128.1 0	€131.4 0	€31.80
Maternity/Adoptive Benefit/ Paternity	€235.0 0	€240.0 0			
Death Benefit					
Under Age 66	€223.5 0	€228.5 0			€31.80
Aged 66 and under Age 80	€242.7 0	€247.7 0			€31.80
Aged 80 and over	€252.7 0	€257.7 0			€31.80

Social Assistance Payments

Maximum Weekly Rates	Personal Rate		Increase for a Qualified Adult		Qualifie d Child Increase 2017/201 8
	2017	2018	2017	2018	
State Pension (Non- Contributory)					

Social Assistance Payments

Maximum Weekly Rates	Personal Rate		Increase for a Qualified Adult		Qualified Child Increase 2017/2018
Aged 66 and under Age 80	€227.00	€232.00	€150.00	€153.30	€31.80
Age 80 and over	€237.00	€242.00			€31.80
Telephone Support Allowance	€2.50 per week with effect from June 2018				
Carer's Allowance					
Under Age 66	€209.00	€214.00			€31.80
Aged 66 and over	€247.00	€252.00			€31.80
Disability Allowance/Blind Pension	€193.00	€198.00	€128.10	€131.40	€31.80
Widow's/Widower's/Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension	€193.00	€198.00			
One-Parent Family Payment	€193.00	€198.00			€31.80
Pre-Retirement/Desterted Wife's Allowance	€193.00	€198.00	€128.10	€131.40	€31.80
Jobseeker's Allowance - Aged 26 or Over	€193.00	€198.00	€128.10	€131.40	€31.80

Social Assistance Payments					
Maximum Weekly Rates	Personal Rate		Increase for a Qualified Adult		Qualified Child Increase 2017/2018
Aged 25	€147.80	€152.80	€128.10	€131.40	€31.80
Aged 18-24	€102.70	€107.70	€102.70	€107.70	€31.80
Supplementary Welfare Allowance - Aged 26 or Over	€191.00	€196.00	€128.10	€131.40	€31.80
Aged 25	€147.80	€152.80	€128.10	€131.40	
Aged 18-24	€102.70	€107.70	€102.70	€107.70	
Farm Assist	€193.00	€198.00	€128.10	€131.40	€31.80

Note 1: for those under age 66 years

Note 2: for those aged 66 years or over

Working Family Payment (formerly FIS)		
Family Size	2017 Income Limit	2018 Income Limit
1 child	€511.00	€521.00
2 children	€612.00	€622.00
3 children	€713.00	€723.00
4 children	€834.00	€834.00

Working Family Payment (formerly FIS)

Family Size	2017 Income Limit	2018 Income Limit
5 children	€960.00	€960.00
6 children	€1,076.00	€1,076.00
7 children	€1,212.00	€1,212.00
8 children or more	€1,308.00	€1,308.00

The level of WFP payment will continue to be based on 60% of the shortfall between net weekly family income and the applicable weekly family threshold.

Child Benefit

	2017 Rate	2018 Rate
Monthly Rate	€140.00 per child	€140.00 per child

Twins – Child Benefit is paid at one and half times (150%) the normal monthly rate for each child.

All other multiple births – Child Benefit is paid at double (200%) the normal monthly rate for each child.

Other Social Welfare Payments

	2017 weekly	2018 weekly
Guardians Payment (Contributory)	€176.00	€181.00
Guardians Payment (Non-Contributory)	€176.00	€181.00
	2017 monthly	2018 monthly

Fuel Allowance (Fuel Season in 2018 for 27 weeks)	€22.50	€22.50
Domiciliary Care Allowance	€309.50	€309.50
	2017 annually	2018 annually
Carer's Support Grant	€1,700.00	€1,700.00
	2017 - once off payment	2018 - once off payment
Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant	€6,000.00	€6,000.00

Housing, Employment and Business, Education and Childcare

Housing

A total of €1.83 billion is allocated to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for housing in 2017.

Social housing support

An increase of €31 million has been allocated to the **Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme**, bringing the total to €115 million. Local authorities and approved housing bodies are to build approximately 3,800 new social houses in 2018.

From 2019, an extra €500 million will be provided for the **direct building programme**, to build an additional 3,000 social houses by 2021.

Funding for the **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)** scheme is increasing by €149 million to €301 million. This will provide for an additional 17,000 households to be accommodated under HAP in 2018 and support the nationwide rollout of the HAP Place Finder Service for people who are in emergency accommodation.

Supports for homeless people

The current allocation for **homelessness services** is increased by €18 million, to over €116 million.

It is intended that there will be 3,000 exits from homelessness in 2018.

As part of the development of the Family Hubs programme, 6 new facilities are due to become operational by the end of 2017.

People in mortgage arrears

An extra €5 million is provided for the **mortgage to rent scheme**, bringing its funding to €22 million for 2018.

Housing tax reliefs

Mortgage Interest Relief, which only applies to mortgages taken out by 31 December 2012, was due to end on 31 December 2017. It will now be retained, on a tapered basis, for remaining recipients – owner occupiers who took out qualifying mortgages between 2004 and 2012. 75% of the existing 2017 relief will be continued into 2018, 50% into 2019 and 25% into 2020. The relief will cease entirely from 2021.

A gradual reduction in **Rent Tax Relief** was announced in Budget 2011. From 2018 onwards, this relief will no longer be available.

Housing finance

Up to €750 million of the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund is being made available for commercial investment in housing finance. These funds will be made available to a new entity, to be known as Home Building Finance Ireland (HBFI), which will increase the availability of debt funding on market terms to commercially viable residential development projects.

Measures to encourage supply of land for housing

A new scheme is being introduced to refund **stamp duty** on property transactions in respect of commercial land bought for the development of housing. To avail of the refund scheme, developers will have to start the relevant development within 30 months of buying the land.

A **Vacant Site Levy** will be charged from 2019 on lands that are suitable for housing but are not being developed. A levy of 3% will apply in 2019, as already planned. The rate will now increase to 7% in the second and subsequent years.

At present, property owners can get full relief from **Capital Gains Tax** if they retain qualifying assets for 7 years. This period is being reduced to 4 years.

A new, time-limited **tax deduction for pre-letting expenses** is being introduced to encourage owners of vacant residential property to bring it into the rental market for a minimum period of 4 years. The property must have been vacant for at least 12 months to qualify. A cap on allowable expenses of €5,000 per property will apply. This relief will be available for qualifying expenses incurred up to the end of 2021. It will be subject to clawback if the property is withdrawn from the rental market within 4 years.

Affordability

An Exchequer allocation of €75 million is provided for a second phase of the **Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund**, which accelerates the provision of public infrastructure to support the development of sites for private housing in urban areas. The fund will also support the delivery of affordable housing on land owned by local authorities, using co-operative housing and similar models.

Additional housing measures

Additional resources will be allocated for the housing needs of Travellers, people with disabilities and older people. Resources will also be allocated for climate mitigation measures, pyrite remediation and housing regeneration. These further measures will be announced shortly.

Employment and Business

National Minimum Wage

The national minimum wage will increase from €9.25 per hour to €9.55 per hour.

Key Employee Engagement Programme (KEEP)

An incentive is being introduced to facilitate the use of share-based remuneration by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to attract key employees. Gains arising to employees on the exercise of KEEP share options will be liable to Capital Gains Tax on disposal of the shares, in place of the current liability to income tax, Universal Social Charge (USC) and Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) on exercise. This incentive will be available for qualifying share options granted between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2023.

Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit will increase from €950 to €1,150. This is relevant for taxpayers earning self-employed trading or professional income in certain cases and for business owner/managers who are ineligible for a Pay As You Earn (PAYE) credit on their salary income.

Stamp Duty

The rate of Stamp Duty on non-residential property increased from 2% to 6% from midnight on 10 October 2017.

A new scheme is being introduced to refund stamp duty on property transactions in respect of commercial land bought for the development of housing. To avail of the refund scheme, developers will have to start the relevant development within 30 months of buying the land.

Consanguinity stamp duty relief for family farm transfers is being maintained at 1% for a further 3 years.

The exemption for young trained farmers from stamp duty on agricultural land transactions continues.

Brexit Loan Scheme

A new €300m Brexit Loan Scheme will provide affordable financing to Irish businesses that are either currently impacted by Brexit or will be in the future. A loan scheme of up to €300m will be made available to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), along with large firms employing fewer than 500 people, to help with short-term working capital needs.

VAT rate

The VAT rate on the tourism and services sector remains unchanged.

Education

Primary and post-primary schools

There will be an additional 1,280 **teaching posts** in schools in September 2018.

In addition, a further 1,091 **Special Needs Assistants** will be recruited, bringing the total number to over 15,000.

€2 million is provided to start a pilot **in-school speech and language therapy programme**.

Higher and further education

There will be 6,000 new **apprenticeships** and 10 new apprenticeship schemes in 2018.

1,000 additional **Springboard** places will be introduced.

2,100 extra places will be provided in higher education to cater for demographic growth.

Child and family support

Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE)

From September 2018, ECCE will be extended from the current average of 61 weeks to give an entitlement of a full two years (76 weeks) of care and education.

Tusla

Additional funding will allow Tusla to recruit staff to facilitate the introduction of mandatory reporting and to make improvements to the out-of-hours social work services.

Health, Environment, Other Announcements

Health

From 1 January 2018, the **prescription charge** for medical card holders under the age of 70 will be reduced from €2.50 per item to €2 per item. The monthly cap will be reduced from €25 to €20.

The monthly threshold for the **Drugs Payment Scheme** will reduce from €144 to €134, from January 2018.

A new **primary care fund** will support the development of GP services, the expansion of community intervention teams and the hiring of more Occupational Therapists.

Additional funding is provided for day services for school leavers with disabilities.

An additional €35 million will be provided for **mental health services** in 2018.

A **tax on sugar-sweetened drinks** will be introduced from April 2018. The tax will be 30 cent per litre on drinks with over 8g of sugar per 100ml, with a lower rate of 20 cent for drinks with between 5g and 8g per 100ml.

VAT on sunbed services will increase from 13.5% to 23%.

Environment

An additional €35 million is provided to expand **energy efficiency programmes** in the residential, commercial and public sectors. Funding of €7 million is allocated to roll out the **Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme**. Funding of €10 million is allocated to increase uptake of **electric vehicles**.

Other announcements

Charities VAT Compensation Scheme

A VAT Compensation Scheme for charities will be introduced in 2019 in respect of VAT expenses incurred in 2018. Charities will be entitled to a refund of a proportion of their VAT costs based on the level of non-public funding they receive. The scheme has been allocated a budget of €5m in 2019.

An Garda Síochána

An additional 800 Gardaí will be recruited during 2018 together with 500 civilian personnel.

Rainy Day Fund

The Government proposes to establish a Rainy Day Fund in the coming year and transfer at least €1.5 billion to it from the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund, with annual contributions of €500 million to commence in 2019.

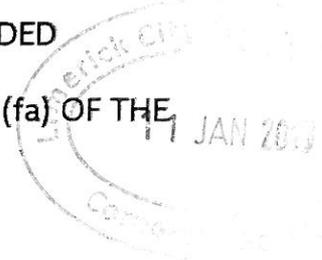
Signature: D. Butler

Print Name: DANIEL BUTLER

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Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences
Name of Conference Finance, Oct 2017
Location of Conference Carlingford Co. South
Date of Conference 5th to 17th Jan 2018

Summary of Conference Content

Presentation and discussion concerning
the main changes in the areas of:
Income tax, Universal Social Charge,
excise duties, Social Welfare (Increases)
(Working Family Payment Back to Work
Family Dividend, Fuel Allowance,
Fuel Travel Scheme, Christmas Bonus,
Telephone Support Allowance, One parent
families, Rural Social Scheme School Meals,
Youth Employment Support),
Housing, Employment and Business,
Education, Child / Family Support,
Health and Environment.

Signature: Michael Sheehan

Print Name: MICHAEL SHEEHAN

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Organiser of Conference SOLA-Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Quality

Name of Conference "Sustainable Quality and Standards for Community, Voluntary and Disability Organisations"

Location of Conference The Pavillion, University of Limerick.

Date of Conference 1st December, 2017

Summary of Conference Content

Highlights from the above as follows :

1) Lean Transportation in the Voluntary Sector - when a system is reviewed with a Lean lense, significant resource savings can be identified.

Lean thinking:

- * Lean can be defined as creating more value for customers with fewer resources
- * a Lean organisation understands customer value and focuses its key processes to continuously increase it
- * the ultimate goal is to provide perfect value to the customer through a process that has zero waste.

Results and findings:

- * most of the 15 areas reviewed had opportunities to save resources
- * an action plan was developed and is still underway
- * possible financial savings to be made based on recommendations amounted to just over €80k.

2) Person-Centered Organisation - goal for disability services, challenges and barriers and current best practice. Goal : Implementing the UN CRPD - full and effective participation and inclusion in society

- * live in the community with choices equal to others
- * personal mobility with the greatest possible independence
- * freedom of expression and opinion
- * employment.

A person-centered organisation involves :

- * visionary leadership
- * shared values and beliefs
- * outcomes for individuals
- * community focus



- * empowered and valued staff
- * individual and organisational learning
- * working together
- * person-centered practices embedded throughout the organisation.

Continuous quality improvement needed - yesterday's expected practice becomes to-day's minimum.

Best practice for community living :

- * building on existing and future capability of the person
- * ensuring the person, their family and loved ones are experts and not the organisation
- * build the capacity of family and community
- * the person has control, the organisation only goes where it is invited to by the individual
- * move from listing needs of the individual to supports required by the individual
- * families and friends are approached first when sourcing supports.

Signature: M. Hurley

Print Name: MARION HURLEY

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Organiser of Conference Celtic Conferences

Name of Conference housing & homelessness

Location of Conference Cardingford Co Louth

Date of Conference 3-5 November

Summary of Conference Content

A very interesting weekend of discussion on homelessness & housing

Shortage of housing
→ zoning of lands
Haps

Vacant houses in towns & villages
Council housing & The Delay in getting tenants back in to houses

Over all I do feel it was a good discussion & well worth while

Signature: Liam Galvin

Print Name: Liam Galvin

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE





Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



An Comhairleoir Stephen Keary
Méara Cathrach agus Contae
Luimnigh

Councillor Stephen Keary
Mayor of the City and County of
Limerick

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Office of the Mayor,
Merchants Quay, Limerick.

Oifig an Mhéara,
Cé na gCeannaithe, Luimneach

21st March, 2018.

To : The Mayor and Each Member of The City and County of Limerick

Attendance at Limerick Association of London Function

On Saturday, 10th February, 2018, accompanied by Mr. Gerard O'Connor, Acting Senior Engineer, I attended a Limerick Association of London event at the Clayton Crown Hotel, Cricklewood, London.

The Limerick Association, which exists to support Shannonsiders in Britain, held a special reception at the Clayton Crown Hotel, Cricklewood, to coincide with Limerick Senior Footballers National League Division IV Football match at Ruislip against London on Sunday, 11th February.

More than sixty people attended the event on Saturday, 10th in Cricklewood. As well as invited guests from Limerick City and County Council, other guests from Shannonside included Limerick GAA County Board Officials.

Pat Donnelly, Manager of the 2017 Limerick U21 hurling All Ireland winning team, together with both the Munster Cup and the James Nowlan All Ireland Cup, was also in attendance.

The following day Limerick and London Senior Footballers played out an entertaining draw at Ruislip.

Stephen Keary

Councillor Stephen Keary

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



Councillor Seán Lynch

**Méara Cheantar Cathrach
Luimnigh
Mayor of the Metropolitan
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Ceanncheathrú Corporate
Chorparáideach, Headquarters,
Cé na gCeannaithe, Merchants Quay,
Luimneach Limerick

21st March, 2018.

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Visit to Queens County, New York

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

As Members will be aware, I travelled to Queens County, New York, in early March 2018 (1st to 5th March) to attend the Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade at Rockaway, Queens, New York. I was accompanied by Ms. Tina Knox, Administrative Officer.

I attended a number of events during the visit in addition to taking part in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to promote Limerick and the Mid West Region and to develop business and tourism linkages.

These included:-

Thursday, 1st March:

4pm - Meeting with the Committee for the St. Patrick's Day Parade to discuss protocol and operations for the day of the Parade and the various events scheduled to take place on the day.

7pm - I attended Reception at the Consulate General of Ireland/New York to celebrate St. Patrick's Season and Irish American Heritage and Culture. In attendance were representatives of the Irish Community in America, Mr. Ciarán Madden, Consul General of Ireland, Ms. Loretta Brennan Glucksman and Mr. Michael Benn, Parade President.

Friday, 2nd March:

I met with Ms. Marina Donahue, Corner Bar Pictures, Film Producer, in relation to filming in Limerick on behalf of the Richard Harris International Film Festival Committee.

Mayoral Reception held for Committee Members of the St.Patrick's Day Parade.

Saturday, 3rd March:

Mass for peace and justice in Ireland at St. Francis De Sales Church, Rockaway, followed by Breakfast Bruch and pre-ceremony for the Parade at Knights of Columbus Hall.

St. Patrick's Day Parade commenced at 12 Noon and was followed by Awards Ceremony held at St. Camillus School Hall, trophies and awards presented to honourees and winners. Those in attendance included Ms. Melinda Katz, President of Queens County Borough, Mr. Scott Stringer, Comptroller of New York City Council, and Ms. Tish James, Public Advocate.

I also attended a number of other events at Rockaway throughout the day and evening.

Sunday, 4th March:

Attended Mass to honour the St. Patrick's Day Festival.

Audience with the Mayor of the City of New York, Mr. Bill De Blasio, at Gracie Mansion. This proved an ideal opportunity to promote Limerick in terms of tourism, business interests and investment.



Monday, 5th March:

I visited Ground Zero and the 13th Precinct where I discussed the use of police kiosks/hubs.

Is mise le meas,

Sean Lynch

**Councillor Sean Lynch,
Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.**



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



An Comhairleoir Stephen Keary
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Oifig an Mhéara,
Cé na gCeannaithe, Luimneach

21st March, 2018.

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Mayoral Visit to New York, USA

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

As Members will be aware, a delegation from the Council travelled to New York for the Annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations where the Grand Marshal this year was Mrs. Loretta Brennan Glucksman.

The delegation was comprised of the Mayor and Councillors John Sheahan, James Collins and Richard O'Donoghue, with the Deputy Chief Executive, Ms. Caroline Curley. The Group travelled on 13th March and departed New York on 18th March.

Members of the delegation took part in a number of events during the visit, in addition to taking part in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, to promote Limerick and the Mid-West Region and to develop business and Diaspora linkages. These included:

Wednesday, 14th March, 2018

Visit to NBC Studios.

Thursday 15th March, 2018

Meeting with Enterprise Ireland.

Meeting with Tourism Ireland.

Meeting with IDA.

Meeting with Consul General of Ireland, Ciarán Madden.

Friday 16th March, 2018

Ireland-US Council Annual Lunch.
Reception at Consulate General of Ireland.

Saturday 17th March, 2018

Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.
St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Is mise, le meas,

Stephen Keary

Councillor Stephen Keary,
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.