

CORRESPONDENCE

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

JULY, 2019

- Email received on 14th June, 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to Notice of Motion from Members requesting the Minister and the HSE Director General, John Connaghan to grant the right of ambulance staff (including paramedics, advanced paramedics and emergency medical technicians) to be represented by the trade union of their choice.
- Letter received on 24th June, 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to Notice of Motion from Members urging the Minister to alleviate the stress of the trolley crisis and to fast track the necessary funding and expertise to deal with this horrendous situation.

Carroll, Siobhan

From: Clune, James
Sent: 14 June 2019 10:41
To: McCormack, Fiona; Carroll, Siobhan
Subject: Fwd: The right of ambulance staff

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>
Date: 14/06/2019 10:26 (GMT+00:00)
To: "Clune, James" <james.clune@limerick.ie>
Subject: FW: The right of ambulance staff

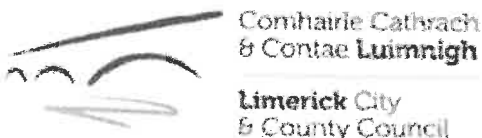
Hi James,

Please see the below that came in for you this morning

Kind regards,

Jade Ryan
Customer Services Adviser
Limerick City & County Council
Merchant's Quay
Limerick

☎ **061 557199**
✉ jade.ryan@limerick.ie



From: Ashling_Flavin@health.gov.ie [mailto:Ashling_Flavin@health.gov.ie] **On Behalf Of** Minister's_Office@health.gov.ie
Sent: 14 June 2019 09:11
To: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>
Subject: The right of ambulance staff

14 June 2019

Mr James Clune
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters

Merchants Quay
Limerick
V94 EH90

Dear Mr Clune

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the right of ambulance staff (including paramedics, advanced paramedics and emergency medical technicians) to be represented by the trade union of their choice.

As you are aware, a branch of the Psychiatric Nurses Association called the National Ambulance Service Representative Association (NASRA) has been engaged in industrial action. The Psychiatric Nurses Association state that their industrial action is in connection with two substantive issues. The first is the refusal by the HSE to engage in negotiations with the PNA or to recognise the PNA as representing ambulance personnel. The second is the automated deduction of union subscriptions.

To be clear, NASRA, which is affiliated with the PNA, is a group which is not recognised by the HSE and, therefore, does not have negotiating rights. The PNA does not have negotiating rights for ambulance personnel. It should be noted that the HSE deducts subscriptions at source for those ambulance staff that are members of a number of unions. These are SIPTU, FORSA and UNITE. The deduction of subscriptions is not a legal right but rather a concession granted to recognised unions.

While it is regrettable that the PNA has taken this industrial action, it is not possible to negotiate with a union which is not recognised as having negotiating rights for ambulance grades. Industrial relations policy has had a long standing objective of avoiding fragmentation in worker representation in public sector employments, and the trade union movement generally, so as to facilitate the orderly conduct of bargaining and other aspects of industrial relations.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely

Simon Harris T.D.

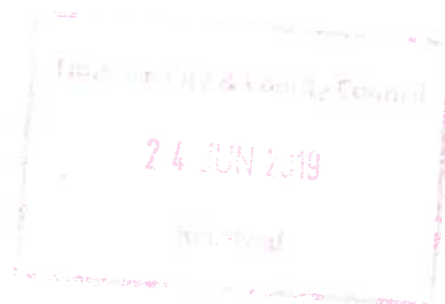
Minister for Health*****

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20 June 2019

Mr James Clune
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick
V94 EH90



Dear Mr Clune

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence concerning the trolley crisis and to inform you that the contents have been noted.

Yours sincerely

Simon Harris T.D.
Minister for Health