

CORRESPONDENCE

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 26th June 2020

- Letter sent on 27th January, 2020, by the Meetings Administrator, Leitrim County Council, to An Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., in relation to resolution adopted by Leitrim County Council as follows -

“The current National Plan, Project Ireland 2040, promotes an urban hierarchy to the detriment of mostly rural counties like Leitrim. Leitrim County Council calls upon the Government to change it and to devise a National Plan which promotes more balanced development and investment across all parts of Ireland.”

- Letter received on 30th January, 2020, from the Meetings Administrator, Roscommon County Council, in relation to resolution adopted by Roscommon County Council as follows -

“That, this Local Authority calls to support the right to Personal Assistance Services (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals. Independent living means an individual can live with freedom and control to have the same choices in life that everyone else has in terms of housing, transportation, education and employment. PAS is a tool for independent living that allows disabled people to live independently, providing individuals with the freedom and flexibility they need to live their lives as they choose.”

- Letter received on 3rd February, 2020, from the A/Meetings Administrator, Galway County Council, in relation to resolution adopted by Galway County Council as follows -

“That, Galway County Council support the Motion passed on November 19th in Dáil Éireann that calls for the provision of Personal Assistance Services to be legislated for as a right for people living with disabilities.”

- Letter received on 13th February, 2020, from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in reply to resolution adopted by the Council at Meeting held on 8th July, 2019, that, in view of the damage spiralling insurance costs are causing to community groups, voluntary organisations, charities and small business, Limerick City and County Council call on the Government to accelerate its insurance reform programme; in particular, Limerick City and County Council call on the Government to immediately establish a distinct Insurance Fraud Unit with An Garda Síochána, establish an interim Judicial Council which

will address excessive awards made in our Courts and insist on greater transparency in relation to claims and premiums from Irish Insurers.

- E-Mail received on 24th February, 2020, from Ms. Niamh Connolly, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, in relation to the Stillbirth Register and Certification and asking that Limerick City and County Council adopt a similar Motion to the following Motion adopted by Kildare County Council –

“That, Kildare County Council request that the Minister undertakes the following – that the Stillbirth Register and Stillbirth Registration be removed and be replaced with a Birth and Death Certificate for babies who are stillborn, so that babies who are stillborn can be registered on the Birth and Death Register and can receive the same State records of their existence as everyone else. Parents whose babies are currently listed on the Stillbirth Register should be given the opportunity to have their babies placed on the Birth and Death Register and to receive a Birth and Death Certificate for their babies.”

- Letter received on 26th February, 2020, from the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department, Finance and Support Services Directorate, Clare County Council, in relation to two resolutions adopted by Clare County Council as follows -

(a) “That, Clare County Council work closely with like-minded Local Authorities to promote Shannon as an international airport.”

(b) “That, Clare County Council, in conjunction with the Local Authorities in Limerick and Tipperary, and all relevant Government Departments, request a review of the NUTS 3 Geocode Standard with a view to having this Region re-named The Shannon Region. Given that we have Shannon International Airport, an abundance of Tourism destinations and a first-class Third Level Educational Sector, the rebranding to The Shannon Region would bring significant promotional benefits for the Airport.”

- Letter received on 6th March, 2020, from the Meetings Administrator, Cork County Council, in relation to resolution adopted by Cork County Council as follows:

“That, Cork County Council write to Department of Health, the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and request that recognition be given to Parental Alienation as a child-welfare issue and to call on the Government to implement the recommendations of The Report on Reform of the Family Law System, October 2019.”

- Letter received on 15th May, 2020, from the Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council, in relation to resolution adopted by Sligo County Council as follows:

“That, Local Authorities be funded by the Government in order to maintain the services to make good the rates shortfall, in a similar manner in which Government has supported SMEs with regard to COVID-19 payments; can this be shared with other Local Authorities throughout the country.”



Comhairle Contae Liatroma Leitrim County Council

Áras an Chontae
Cora Droma Rúisc
Contae Liatroma
N41 PF67

Áras an Chontae
Carrick on Shannon
Co. Leitrim
N41 PF67

☎ 071 96 20005
☎ 071 96 21982
🌐 www.leitrimcoco.ie
✉ customerservices@leitrimcoco.ie

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27th January 2020



Mr. Leo Varadakar T.D.,
An Taoiseach
Minister for Defence
Department of the Taoiseach
Government Buildings
Dublin 2.

Re: National Plan, Project Ireland 2040

Dear Taoiseach,

I wish to inform you at the January meeting of Leitrim County Council the Members unanimously passed the following resolution:-

"The current National Plan, Project Ireland 2040, promotes an urban hierarchy to the detriment of mostly rural counties like Leitrim. Leitrim County Council calls upon the Government to change it and to devise a National Plan which promotes more balanced development and investment across all parts of Ireland.

I ask that a copy of this motion be circulated to all the other 30 Councils."

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

**Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator**

Cc To All Local Authorities



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



To All Local Authorities.

Date: 28th January, 2020

Re: Notice of Motion – 8.20a

Dear Meeting Administrators,

At the Plenary meeting of Roscommon County Council, held on Monday 27th January the following motion was discussed.

On the PROPOSAL for Cllr. Waldron

SECONDED by Cllr. Ward

It was AGREED to circulate this motion to all Local Authorities.

"This Local Authority calls to support the right to Personal Assistance Services (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals.

Independent living means an individual can live with freedom and control to have the same choices in life that everyone else has in terms of housing, transportation, education and employment. PAS is a tool for independent living that allows disabled people to live independently, providing individuals with the freedom and flexibility they need to live their lives as they choose".

Yours Faithfully,

Patricia Bohan,
Meetings Administrator,
Corporate Services,
Roscommon County Council.

Email: meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie

Áras an Chontae,
Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh.
H91 H6KX.

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill, Galway
H91 H6KX.

Fón/Phone: (091) 509 000
Facs/Fax: (091) 509 010
Idirtelex/Web: www.gaillimh.ie
www.galway.ie

@GalwayCoCo
GalwayCounty

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
Corporate Services
(091) 509 225
corpserv@galwaycoco.ie

Tithíocht
Housing
(091) 509 300
housing@galwaycoco.ie

Impeallacht & Tréidliacht
Environment & Veterinary
(091) 509 510
environment@galwaycoco.ie

Bóithre, Iompar, Cúrsaí Mara
& Seirbhísí Ginearálta
Roads, Transportation, Marine
& General Services
(091) 509 309
roads@galwaycoco.ie

Acmhainní Daonna
Human Resources
(091) 509 303
hr@galwaycoco.ie

Mótarcháin
Motor Taxation
(091) 509 099
motortax@galwaycoco.ie

Clár na dToghthóirí
Register of Electors
(091) 509 310
electors@galwaycoco.ie

Seirbhísí Uisce
Water Services
(091) 509 505
water@galwaycoco.ie

Pobal & Fiontar
Community & Enterprise
(091) 509 521
community@galwaycoco.ie

Pleanáil
Planning
(091) 509 308
planning@galwaycoco.ie

Leabharlann
Library
(091) 562 471
info@galwaylibrary.ie



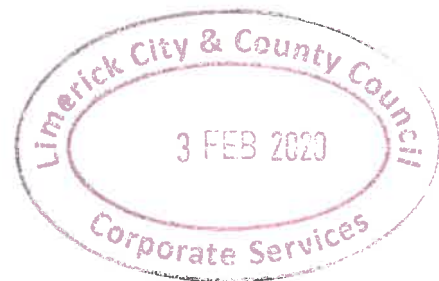
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CD/BR

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

30th January 2020

To **Meetings Administrator**
All Local Authorities



Re: Resolution of Galway County Council

A chara,

At the Plenary Meeting of Galway County Council held on Monday 27th January 2020, the following resolution was passed:

"that Galway County Council support the motion passed on November 19th in Dáil Éireann that calls for the provision of Personal Assistance Services to be legislated for as a right for people living with disabilities."

It was agreed to circulate the motion to all Local Authorities. I would be grateful if you could bring the contents of this letter to the attention of the Elected Members at the next meeting of the Local Authority.

Mise, le meas,


C. Delaney,
A/Meetings Administrator

**An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
agus Comhionannais**

Department of Justice
and Equality



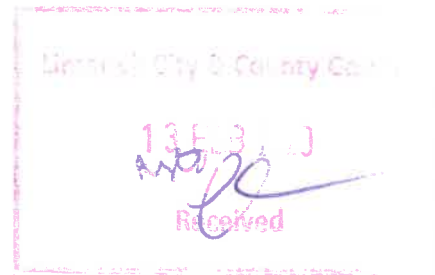
Oifig an Aire | Office of the Minister

Mr. James Clune,
Limerick County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick

V94 EH90

12th February 2020

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-03802-2019



Dear Mr. Clune,

I refer to your correspondence of 22 July 2019 to An Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar T.D., in which you conveyed the call by Limerick City and County Council for urgent reform of the insurance sector in response to the current crisis surrounding the availability and cost of insurance cover. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I should state that overall responsibility for the insurance sector lies with the Department of Finance and that Department has been asked to respond directly on the actions being taken to address the issue of rising insurance costs in the childcare sector.

That being said, the Department of Justice and Equality has been an active participant in the Cost of Insurance Working Group which was established to ascertain what measures Government could take to address the very high costs that insurance companies are imposing on their customers - including by reference to those solutions operated in other jurisdictions. In that context, the Department has taken a number of actions designed to address insurance costs including:

- The publication of guidelines for the reporting of allegations of fraudulent insurance claims to An Garda Síochána;
- The inclusion of a new claim fraud category on the Garda PULSE system which will enable the production of better statistics on fraudulent claims;
- The establishment of an Insurance Fraud Database Working Group which is working to establish an integrated insurance fraud database;
- The introduction, by the Garda Commissioner, of a focused model aimed at tackling insurance fraud at divisional level throughout the country;
- The amendment of sections 8 and 14 of the Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004 to improve their effectiveness against fraudulent claims.

In addition, the Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan, recently signed the Commencement Order for the Judicial Council Act 2019, allowing the Council to formally come into being. Part of the functions of the Council will be the adoption of guidelines for awards in personal injuries cases. The work on drafting such guidelines will be carried out by the Personal Injuries

51 Faiche Stiabhna, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 HK52

51 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, D02 HK52

Teileafón/Telephone: +353 1 602 8202 | Iosghlao/Lo-call: 1890 221 227

Riomhphost/Email: info@justice.ie | www.justice.ie

Guidelines Committee which is chaired by Justice Mary Irvine. It is due to report back to the Judicial Council within six months of its establishment.

Further to the above, the Law Reform Commission published an Issues Paper on the subject of "Capping Damages in Personal Injuries Actions" on 11 December. The Issues Paper will provide contributors with an opportunity to express their views and to make any related submissions on the questions that arise in the Paper. The closing date for receipt of submissions is 31 January, 2020. It is expected that the final Report of the Commission will be published next year.

There is more to be done within the insurance industry to address the issues of high costs. The Department of Justice and Equality has called on the insurance industry to be more responsive to the needs of their customers and to address the situation that certain areas of risk are being commercially avoided to the detriment of businesses and customers. The Department will continue to make every possible effort to help ensure that relevant legislative and other measures are taken to address the issue of high insurance costs.

There is some evidence of the positive impact of the range of measures taken by Government. In May, the Central Statistics Office revealed that the price of motor insurance fell again in April and is 6.6% lower than this time last year and 24.4% lower than its peak in July 2016.

As you will observe from the above, the groundwork has now been completed to enable this issue to be tackled comprehensively and the coming months will see action being taken by the Judicial Council and its relevant committees to address issues affecting the cost of Public Liability Insurance and ensure the continuing viability and vitality of our community and voluntary sector.

In responding to your correspondence, I can assure you and the members of Limerick City and County Council that Minister Flanagan fully recognises the adverse impact that prohibitive insurance costs, and the unavailability of any suitable insurance cover for some, is having at present. He particularly appreciates that these matters are having a negative impact on small business, play centres and other activities at local community level, including in economic and employment terms. These concerns are central to the Government's ongoing drive for insurance costs reform including through the programme of actions now being taken under the Cost of Insurance Working Group.

I hope I have been able to be of some assistance to you on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

PP Catherine Smith

Conor Cleary
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice and Equality

From: Niamh Connolly [<mailto:connollyniamh@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 8:22 PM

Subject: The Stillbirth Register and Certification - Motion carried in by Kildare County Council

My name is Niamh Connolly. I am a bereaved parent and I live in Celbridge, Co Kildare.

Today, the motion below was carried unanimously by all Kildare county council councillors. I am delighted to say that there was cross-party support. I would be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of your county council elected representatives (councillors) so that a similar motion might be posed.

That Kildare county council requests that the Minister undertakes the following: That the stillbirth register and stillbirth registration be removed and be replaced with a birth and death certificate for babies who are stillborn, so that babies who are stillborn can be registered on the birth and death register and can receive the same state records of their existence as everyone else. Parents whose babies are currently listed on the stillbirth register should be given the opportunity to have their babies placed on the birth and death register and to receive a birth and death certificate for their babies.

This motion was posed by Cllr Ide Cussens.

Below is my personal story which might help give some insight into this request.

Personal story

My name is Niamh Connolly. I had twin girls in 2015. Emma was born well and healthy but very sadly, her twin sister Mia had a heart problem called hypoplastic left heart syndrome and she died 4 weeks before she was born. When I went to register Emma in Naas, Co Kildare for a birth certificate, I realised that because Mia was stillborn she would not be receiving a birth certificate and a death certificate like everyone else but instead she would be listed on a special Stillbirth register that is closed to the public. Only my husband and I can have easy access to a copy of Mia's stillbirth certification from the General Registers Office. Mia's siblings would not and neither do any other relatives or friends. The General Registration Office currently process applications to obtain a copy of her stillbirth certificate from other family members when they are satisfied that sufficient evidence has been produced to demonstrate knowledge of the stillbirth in question. This means that when I am gone, no one will have easy access to any state records about Mia and future descendants might not even know that she existed. This does need to change.

I would be great if you could send me an acknowledgement email and confirmation that it has been sent to elected representatives.

Kindest regards,
Niamh Connolly



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

25th February, 2020.

Our Ref: February 20-32/AR/MMcI

Mr. Pat Daly,
Chief Executive,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchant's Quay,
Limerick.

Limerick City & County Council

26 FEB 2020

Office of the Chief Executive


Dear Mr. Daly,

At a recent meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolutions:

- (a) "That Clare County Council work closely with like minded local authorities to promote Shannon as an international airport.
- (b) "That Clare County Council in conjunction with the Local Authorities in Limerick and Tipperary and all relevant Government Departments request a review of the NUTS 3 Geocode Standard with a view to having this Region renamed the Shannon Region. Given that we have Shannon International Airport, an abundance of Tourism Destinations and a first class Third Level Educational Sector, the rebranding to the Shannon Region would bring significant promotional benefits for the Airport, Tourism and Inward Investment."

The Council would appreciate a reply in due course.

Yours sincerely,


Ann Reynolds,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.

An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services Department
Finance and Support Services Directorate
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí Cork County Council

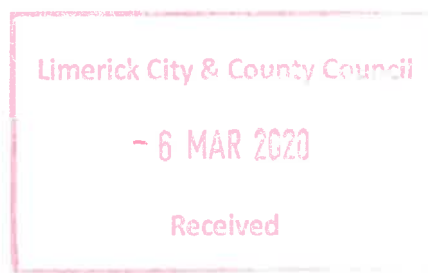
Halla an Chontae,
Corcaigh T12 R2NC, Éire.
Fón: (021) 4276891 • Faics: (021) 4276321
Suíomh Gréasáin: www.corkcoco.ie
County Hall,
Cork T12 R2NC, Ireland.
Tel: (021) 4276891 • Fax: (021) 4276321
Web: www.corkcoco.ie



Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Merchants Quay
Limerick
V94 EH90



To: Each Local Authority



28th February 2020

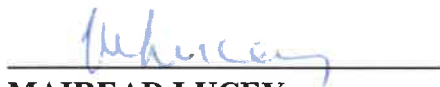
A Chairde,

At the recent Full Council Meeting of Cork County Council, the following Motion was discussed on the proposal of Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, seconded by Cllr. Liam Quaide:

"That Cork County Council write to Department of Health, the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and request recognition be given to Parental Alienation as a child-welfare issue and to call on the Government to implement the recommendations of The Report on Reform of the Family Law System, October 2019."

It was agreed to circulate this Motion to all Local Authorities. I would be grateful if you bring this to the attention of your Elected Members for their information and attention.

Yours sincerely,


MAIREAD LUCEY
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR



We are Cork.



Recycled



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH
ÁRAS CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL RIVERSIDE SLIGO

+353 71 911 1111
+353 71 914 1119

info@sligococo.ie
www.sligococo.ie

15th May, 2020



To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the May Ordinary Meeting of Sligo County Council held on 11th May, the following resolution was agreed:

"I propose that local authorities be funded by the Government, in order to maintain the services to make good the rates shortfall in a similar manner in which Government have supported SMEs with regard to Covid payments. Can this be shared with other local authorities throughout the country."


Kevin Colreavy
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Section
Sligo County Council
County Hall
Riverside
Sligo
F91 Y763

Tel: 071-9111216
e-mail: meetings@sligococo.ie