

CORRESPONDENCE

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

SEPTEMBER, 2020

- Letter dated 19th June, 2020 from the Office of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection in reply to Notice of Motion from Members calling on the Minister to engage with Debenhams to ensure a just settlement for former Debenhams workers, many who have given over 20 years of their working lives to the Company.
- Email dated 20th July, 2020 from the Office of the Minister for Media, Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports and the Gaeltacht in reply to letter to the Minister following Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 13th July, 2020 to discuss the decision of the Shannon Group to close Shannon Heritage sites in the Mid West.
- Emails dated 21st July and 12th August, 2020 from Irish Water in reply to Notice of Motion from Members requesting that previous plans to extend the public sewer line from Patrickswell Village towards Lurriga be included in Irish Waters Capital Investment Plan 2022-2026.
- Letter dated 22nd July, 2020 from the Office of the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief in reply to letter to the Minister following Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 13th July, 2020 to discuss the decision of the Shannon Group to close Shannon Heritage sites in the Mid West.
- Letter dated 24th July, 2020 from the Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Group in reply to letter to the CEO following Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 13th July, 2020 to discuss the decision of the Shannon Group to close Shannon Heritage sites in the Mid West.
- Letter dated 29th July, 2020 from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that this Council support the Haven Hubs call and write to the Government, requesting an independent inquiry into the mental health and crisis services at University Hospital Limerick.

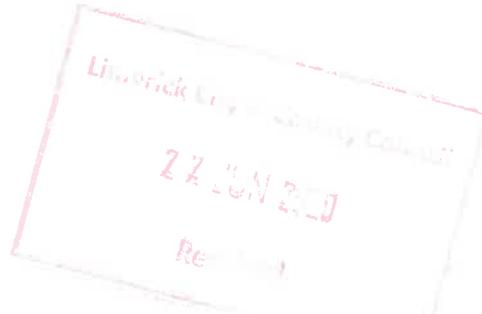


Oifig an Aire Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimige Sóisialaí
Office of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection



Case Number: REPS-2020-20931

Mr. James Clune
Meetins Administrator
Limerick City & County Council
Corporate Services
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick.



19th June 202

Dear Mr. Clune

I refer to your correspondence regarding a resolution agreed at the meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 15th June 2020, regarding Debenhams workers.

Firstly, I would like to say that my thoughts are with all Debenhams workers who are dealing with job losses at this difficult time. With the exception of grocery outlets, the retail sector has been particularly affected by the economic turmoil caused by Covid-19. Having come through a number of turbulent years and an examinership process, it is regrettable that the Debenhams workers now face redundancy.

I want to assure everybody that my Department is assisting the affected workers through its Intreo service to help them in whatever way we can in terms of income supports and job-seeking over the coming weeks and months. Indeed over the past number of weeks officials from my Department have engaged with both officials from Mandate and with the Human Resource management team in Debenhams to ensure that all workers have received their due entitlements from my Department.

My officials are also available to assist these workers in the job search efforts over the period ahead and with advice on further education and training options that will help them to find work within their sector or in other sectors where work opportunities will become available as the economy improves over the period ahead.

Furthermore, the redundancy and insolvency section of my Department has already engaged with the liquidators appointed to Debenhams and is continuing to work with them to ensure that all claims in respect of employees are dealt with expeditiously.

Since the announcement of the liquidation of Debenhams there have been calls on the Government to intervene in or halt the liquidation of the company and to ensure that employees of Debenhams receive enhanced redundancy payments. Employee representatives have also called for the 30 day mandatory consultation period to be extended.

The Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation has been clear that she, as the Minister responsible for company law legislation, has no statutory power to intervene in a court supervised liquidation. A company is permitted to initiate a voluntary winding up where it has complied with requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

I have been asked by the Mandate Trade Union to utilise my powers in accordance with Section 15 of the Protection of Employment Act 1977. In this regard, I sought urgent legal advice from the Attorney General in relation to those powers as they pertain to a court appointed liquidator. I received those advices yesterday and they are unequivocal.

I am advised that I, as Minister, cannot exercise the powers in section 15 because those powers envisage engagement only with the employer. As is clear from the statutory definition, a liquidator is not an employer for the purposes of this Act. Therefore, there is no possibility of using the section 15 mechanism as suggested.

While we don't have the power to ensure that Debenhams pay an enhanced redundancy package to its employees, an employer is obliged to pay the statutory redundancy entitlement as provided for in the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 and that is all that can be legally enforced against an employer.

As the company has been declared insolvent, the Department can provide a safety net for employees and the liquidator can submit claims for statutory redundancy and other wage related entitlements for payment from the Social Insurance Fund. We will ensure that the statutory redundancy entitlement which is laid out in legislation will be paid.

Yours sincerely


Regina Doherty
Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Carroll, Siobhan

From: Clune, James
Sent: Tuesday 21 July 2020 09:01
To: Williams, Peter; Carroll, Siobhan
Subject: FW: MO-01082-2020 : Limerick Co Co Meeting Request re Shannon Heritage
Attachments: 1219_001.pdf

Categories: [SharePoint] This message was saved in 'Council > Metropolitan District Meetings Administration (CS-3.2-METMAD) > Metropolitan Meetings 2019 2024 (008) > CNL-CLSMAD-MPD-2020 > 08 Monthly Meeting 21st September 2020 > 00(b) Correspondence'

From: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 8:55 AM
To: 'diary@chg.gov.ie' <diary@chg.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: MO-01082-2020 : Limerick Co Co Meeting Request re Shannon Heritage

Dear Mr Brady,

I acknowledge receipt of your mail.

I have forwarded same to Mr Clune for his attention.

Regards

Kate

***Le gach dea mhéin
Seirbhísí Custaiméirí
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh***

***Customer Services
Limerick City & County Council
Telephone: 061 556000***

From: Minister's Diary CHG [<mailto:diary@chg.gov.ie>]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 5:34 PM
To: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>
Subject: MO-01082-2020 : Limerick Co Co Meeting Request re Shannon Heritage

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Good afternoon James,

Kind regards
Jordan

Jordan Brady
Minister's Office

An Roinn Meán Cumarsáide, Turasóireachta, Ealaíon, Cultúir, Spóirt agus Gaeltachta
Department of Media, Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports and the Gaeltacht
23 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D2 TD30.
23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D2 TD30

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo faoi rún, chomh maith le gach comhad atá ceangailte leis, agus i gcomhair úsáid an duine nó an chórais a bhfuil sé dírithe air amháin. Má fhaigheann tú an ríomhphost seo trí bhotún, cuir scéal chugainn ag webmaster@chg.gov.ie. Tá an ríomhphost seo arna sheiceáil ag scanóir víreas agus dealramh air go bhfuil sé glan.

The information in this email, and any attachments transmitted with it, are confidential and are for the intended recipient only. If you receive this message in error, please notify us via webmaster@chg.gov.ie . This e-mail has been scanned by a virus scanner and appears to be clean.

Carroll, Siobhan

From: localrepsupport <localrepsupport@water.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 21 July 2020 13:25
To: Carroll, Siobhan
Cc: Clune, James; Williams, Peter
Subject: Irish Water: July Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick

Dear Mr. Clune,

Thank you for your email.

This query has been assigned to the appropriate department for review and response.

Once we receive any update, a member of our team will be in contact with you. Your Irish Water reference number is 53422, which you can keep for your own records.

Thank you for contacting Irish Water.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Creed
Local Representative Support Desk

T:1890 178 178 | Minicom: 1890 378 378

E: localrepsupport@water.ie

W: www.water.ie

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From: Carroll, Siobhan [mailto:siobhan.carroll@limerick.ie]
Sent: 21 July 2020 13:05
To: localrepsupport
Cc: Clune, James; Williams, Peter
Subject: July Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick

A Chara,

At Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 20th July, 2020, the following resolution was adopted :

I call on Limerick City and County Council's Water Services Department to join me in writing to Irish Water requesting that previous plans to extend the public sewer line from Patrickswell Village towards Lurriga be included in Irish Waters Capital Investment Plan 2022-2026.

I would be obliged to hear from you on the matter at your convenience.

Is mise le meas,

**James Clune,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services.**

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Thank you for your attention.

Tá an fhaisnéis á seachadadh dírithe ar an duine nó ar an eintiteas chuig a bhfuil sí seolta amháin agus féadfar ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid de. Tá aon athsheachadadh nó scaipeadh den fhaisnéis, aon athbhreithniú ar nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó aon ghníomh a dhéantar ag brath ar an bhfaisnéis seo ag daoine nó ag eintitis nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis seo, toirimisceithe agus féadfar é a bheith neamhdhleathach. Níl Uisce Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Uisce Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghnímh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirmisceithe na faisnéise seo. Níl Uisce Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. Féadfar ríomhphost a bheith soghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasaithe neamhúdraithe. Ní ghlacann Uisce Éireann le haon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo i ndiaidh é a sheoladh nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin. Más é do thoil é, tabhair faoi deara chomh maith go bhféadfar monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar theachtairreachtaí chuig nó ó Uisce Éireann chun comhlíonadh le polasaithe agus le caighdeáin Uisce Éireann a chinntiú agus chun ár ngnó a chosaint. Fochuideachta gníomhaíochta de chuid Ervia is ea Uisce

Carroll, Siobhan

From: localrepsupport [localrepsupport@water.ie]
Sent: 12 August 2020 11:11
To: Carroll, Siobhan
Cc: Clune, James
Subject: Irish Water

Dear Ms Carroll & Mr Clune,

Irish Water has no plans at this time to extend the wastewater network in the area in question. Should a person/group/entity wish to have the network extended in the area, an application can be submitted to Irish Water by visiting www.water.ie/connections. This would require a contribution by the applicant of the relevant portion of the costs of the network extension.

Thank you for contacting Irish Water.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver McCreesh

Local Representative Support Desk

localrepsupport@water.ie
www.water.ie

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Thank you for your attention.



Our Ref : C/ CE – 2020/169

22nd
July 2020

Mr. James Clune,
Meetings Administrator,
Limerick City & County Council,
Corporate Services,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick.



Dear James,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter requesting a meeting to discuss the decision of the Shannon Group to close Shannon Heritage sites in the Mid West and the feasibility of the OPW taking over the running of King John's Castle.

Once enquiries have been completed in the matter you have raised, you will receive a substantive response.

If you have not received a substantive reply to your query within 28 days, please revert to my office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Patrick O'Donovan TD
Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief

T: +353 (0) 61 712 228
E: Info@shannongroup.ie

www.shannongroup.ie

GRÚPA NA Sionainne
shannon GROUP
Eitlíocht | Maoin | Turasóireacht
Aviation | Property | Tourism



Mr. James Clune
Meetings Administrator
Limerick City & County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Limerick



24th July, 2020

Dear Mr. Clune,

I refer to your recent letter of 18th June regarding Kings John's Castle, our subsequent response of 9th July and your further letter of 14th July.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend your recent meeting on 13th July due to a prior committed engagement.

In my letter of 9th July, I highlighted the profound and catastrophic effect that the Covid-19 crisis has had on tourism in Ireland and in particular Shannon Group which suffered very significant losses because of its reliance on passengers in Shannon Airport and visitors to Shannon Heritage attractions. In Shannon Heritage we have experienced an almost total collapse in revenues in 2020 and urgent actions were required to prevent further losses, which are unsustainable and where there is limited prospect of a return to pre-Covid-19 levels of revenue for some time.

As you know on 29th June, we temporarily reopened Bunratty Castle & Folk Park and King John's Castle to cater for what we had hoped would be a surge in domestic demand. We did this in the hope that we would see an uptake by the domestic market to somewhat mitigate against the lack of international visitors. Unfortunately, we have not seen a meaningful uptake by domestic visitors to these sites and despite a concerted marketing campaign targeting the domestic market, so far, this demand has not materialised.

Bunratty's overall visitor numbers for period 29th June to 22nd July are down 71% on the prior year with domestic visitors, though limited, down on prior year rather than the increase we were expecting. In King John's Castle for the same period, overall visitor numbers are down 85% on the prior year with domestic visitors down over 40% on prior year. It is clear, that indoor experiences such as King John's Castle are performing worse than outdoor venues, due to continued concerns around Covid-19 infections. We would expect that when the peak holiday season finishes and the schools reopen, visitor numbers will fall significantly further, and the losses being incurred by Shannon Heritage will increase. Thus, the decision to close these sites from 31st August is to seek to reduce those losses and protect the business for the long term.

Grúpa na Sionainne, cuideachta phoiblí theoranta,
Aerfort Na Sionainne, Co. an Chláir, Éire. V14 EE06

Shannon Group, public limited company, Shannon
Airport, Co. Clare, Ireland. V14EE06

Difig Chláraithe: Aerfort na Sionainne, Contae an Chláir. Uimhir Chláraithe: 548847 Éire
Registered Office: Shannon Airport, County Clare. Registered Number: 548847 Ireland

An Bord Stiúrthóirí | The Board of Directors: Rose Hynes, Mary Considine, Kathryn O'Leary Higgins (US),
Tom Kelly, Ambrose Loughlin, Kevin McCarthy, Liam O'Shea, Mike Quinn, Stephen Rae, Linda Tynne

We are actively engaged with our shareholder regarding possible funding mechanisms for Shannon Heritage to assist with the effects which the current crisis is having on our business including looking at all appropriate structural models that will ensure these key strategic heritage sites are available to the public.

In addition, we are currently reviewing the measures which may be available to the Group following the Government's announcement of the July Jobs Stimulus Package yesterday and assessing what supports Shannon Group can avail of to allow us to review the opening of the sites after the summer season.

We appreciate and look forward to your continued support as we deal with the challenges ahead. We will update you and officials in Limerick City and County Council on further developments.

Kind Regards,



Mary Considine
Chief Executive Officer



29th July 2020

Mr. James Clune
Meetings Administrator
Limerick City & County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick

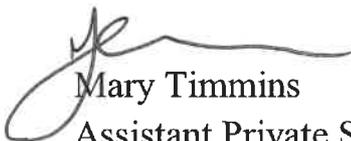


Dear Mr. Clune,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D. dated 21st July 2020.

A copy of your correspondence has been forwarded to Minister of State Mary Butler T.D., who has special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, for attention.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Timmins
Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01-6194000
E-mail: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie