

## CORRESPONDENCE

### January 2021 Council Meeting

- E-Mail received on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, from the Meetings Administrator, Galway County Council, outlining resolution sent to the Government in support of the survivors of Mother and Baby Homes.
- Letter received on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, from the Minister for Defence in reply to resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the Battle of Jadotville in the Congo in 1961 and requesting that the eight Irish veterans still living receive their long-awaited medals for bravery in action as soon as possible.
- Letter received on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, from the Meetings Administrator, Waterford City and County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council supporting the Debenhams workers.
- Letter received on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, from the Meetings Administrator, Galway County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the Review of the third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based violence.
- Letter received on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, from Mr. Tony Canavan, Executive Chairperson, Regional Health Forum West (HSE West), in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for a letter to issue to the Minister for Health, University Hospital Limerick and the HSE requesting the urgent recruitment of a specialist dietician in post for adults with diabetes.
- Letter received on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, from the County Secretary and Communications Officer, Wexford County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling for a rebate scheme for third-level students, for the academic year 2020/2021, who were charged the full rate for on-campus accommodation but only afforded limited access due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- E-Mail received on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, from 'National Transport Authority Oireachtas Liaison' in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *"calling on the Minister for Transport/National Transport Authority for the phased re-introduction of a freight and passenger service along the Limerick City to Foynes railway line in time for the 2027 Ryder Cup, such that rail can drive development in our City and County."*
  - Letter received on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, from Ms. Colette Cowan, Group Chief Executive Officer, UL Hospitals, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for a letter to issue to the Minister for Health, University Hospital Limerick and the HSE requesting the urgent recruitment of a specialist dietician in post for adults with diabetes.
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info@galwaylibrary.ie



CC1-1a-0025  
Our Ref: MO/SE

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

TO: EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the November Plenary Meeting of Galway County Council, the Members passed the following motion:

***"The Mother and Baby Homes represent a very dark part of our State's history. That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes have legitimate concerns regarding access to personal information. Therefore, that Galway County Council will write to the Taoiseach and Minister for Children, Disability, Integration requesting the following: That the Final Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation be published soon as possible and include the details of the experiences of survivors in each institution. That the Government provide a full State response to the findings and recommendations of the Final Report. That the Government publish new statutory information and tracing legislation without delay. That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes are given access to their personal records consistent with GDPR. That the Department of Children and Túlsa work with the Office of the DPC to ensure that rights of survivors to personal information about themselves under data protection legislation and the GDPR are fully respected. That the Government urgently put in place a range of supports for survivors and adoptees. That the Government continues to engage in consultation with survivors and their organisations as they establish a national archive of records related to institutional trauma 20th century.***

***That a copy of this motion should also be sent to every local authority in Ireland, north and south, as correspondence".***

It was agreed to send a copy of this motion to all Councils.

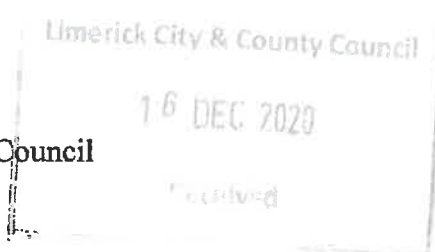
Mise le Meas

pp   
Michael Owens  
Meetings Administrator



10 December 2020

Mr. James Clune  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchant Quay  
Limerick  
V94 EH90



Re: Response to Jadotville correspondence

Dear Mr.Clune,

I refer to your recent correspondence regarding Jadotville.

The siege of Jadotville was a prominent event that occurred during Ireland's peacekeeping mission in the Congo in September 1961 where "A" Company, 35th Infantry Battalion, came under attack. From the 13th to the 17th September the men of "A" Company endured almost continuous attack. At the end of the Siege, the men were taken into captivity until finally released on the 25th October 1961.

In 1962 and 1965 a properly constituted medals board considered the issue of award of medals including nominations that had been submitted in respect of a number of the men of "A" Company. This Medals Board did not award any medals whose citation mentioned Jadotville. This decision was subsequently reviewed by the Medals Board and it was indicated that the issued raised had received due consideration and that they were not prepared to alter their findings.

In 2004 a broader examination of the events at Jadotville was conducted by military officers. This Board recommended that the events of Jadotville and the contribution of the 35th Battalion be given recognition. The outcome of this broader examination of the events at Jadotville has led to a number of initiatives that honour the collective actions and bravery of the men of "A" Company at Jadotville and recognise the very significant contribution of "A" Company and of the 35th Battalion, as a whole, to the UN Peace Support Mission in the Congo. Recognition of their contribution over the years include:

- A presentation of scrolls to "A" Company in 2006.
- Portraits of Lt Col McNamee (35th Battalion Commander) and Comdt Quinlan (Company Commander "A" Company) were commissioned in 2006.
- In July of 2010 the 50th anniversary of the first deployment to the Congo was commemorated in a highly publicised and well attended event in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel.

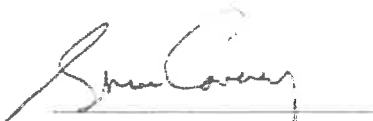
- A nominal roll of "A" Company, printed in copper, was affixed to the monument in Costume Barracks and was unveiled as part of the 50th Anniversary of the Jadotville affair in September 2011.
- In September 2016, on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the Siege of Jadotville, a Unit Citation to honour the collective actions and bravery of the men of "A" Company was issued. This was the first time a Unit Citation was awarded within the Defence Forces.
- In 2017, at the request of the then Minister with responsibility for Defence, a further review of archival records relating to the Siege at Jadotville was undertaken by the Military Authorities but this did not uncover any additional information not already known. Given the increase in knowledge and understanding of the unique and exceptional circumstances surrounding the Siege at Jadotville, the then Taoiseach and the then Minister with responsibility for Defence decided that the most appropriate decision would be to collectively honour the actions of "A" Company at Jadotville. The Government committed, as an exceptional step, to award a medal known as "An Bonn Jadotville" or "The Jadotville Medal" to each member of "A" Company, 35th Infantry Battalion and the family representatives of deceased members.

This specially commissioned medal gives full and due recognition in honour of the courageous actions of the men of "A" Company, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, during the siege at Jadotville. The words inscribed on the medal are "Cosaint Chalma" (Valiant Defence) and "Misneach" (Courage). These words were carefully chosen in order to pay tribute to the courageous actions of the men of "A" Company.

Coupled with the Unit Citation that issued in 2016, no other collective award of this nature has been made to date and the uniqueness of such awards should not be understated.

Notwithstanding the actions that have been undertaken to date, I recently asked the Chief of Staff for his views on the matter, in the context of the award of medals, and the possible implications for the integrity of the award of medals system. I have accepted the Chief of Staff's proposal to establish an independent group of external experts to consider the entire case and evidence, including new evidence, if any, available. This independent review group will report its findings and recommendations to the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff will then make recommendations as appropriate to myself by the end of March 2021.

Yours sincerely



Simon Coveney TD  
Minister for Defence and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge  
Waterford City & County Council

**Our Ref:** HD/AOS/M162

11<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

**To:** Each Local Authority

The following motion was adopted at the November meeting of Waterford City and County Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

- “ That Waterford City and County Council:*
- sends its solidarity and support to the former Debenhams workers seeking a just and fair settlement from their former employer*
  - reaffirms the Council’s support for workers’ rights, the principle of collective bargaining, and fairness and dignity at work*
  - calls on the Government to implement the Duffy-Cahill report; to legislate to protect workers from strategic liquidations and asset stripping by companies; and to protect collective bargaining agreements*
- calls for KPMG and Government to immediately engage with the workers and their representatives in the Mandate trade union. .”*

Yours sincerely,

**Honor Dunphy**  
**Meetings Administrator**

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Environment & Veterinary  
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CC1-1a-0025

Our Ref: MO/SE

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

TO: EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the December Plenary Meeting of Galway County Council, the Members passed the following motion:

***"I propose that Galway County Council write to Minister for Justice Helen McEntee to request that the review of the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender based Violence is expedited to provide a fit for purpose strategy taking into account the additional reported rise in domestic abuse incidents occurring during COVID Pandemic restricted conditions and the urgent need for additional refuge places and adequately resourced services.***

***I propose that a copy of this motion be sent to all local authorities as correspondence".***

It was agreed to send a copy of this motion to all Councils.

Mise le Meas

*Michael Owens*

**Michael Owens  
Meetings Administrator**



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE, AN T-IARTHAR  
FSS Iarthar  
Bloc B  
Campas Ospidéal Páirc Mheirlinne  
Gaillimh  
H91 N973

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST  
HSE West  
Block B  
Merlin Park Campus  
Galway  
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Tel: 091 775934/5935  
Email: [rhf.west@hse.ie](mailto:rhf.west@hse.ie)

4<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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

**RE: Resolution from Limerick City and County Council – Urgent recruitment of a specialist dietician in post for adults with diabetes.**

Dear James,

I refer to your correspondence of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, received 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, in relation to the resolution passed at a recent meeting regarding the urgent recruitment of a specialist dietician in post for adults with diabetes.

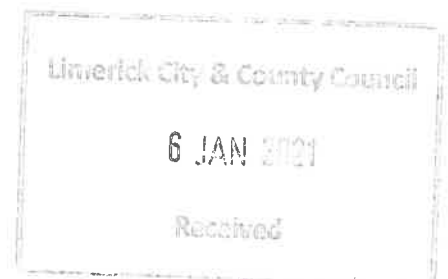
You will be aware that as per the Health Act 2004, Section 42 sets out the arrangements for the involvement of elected local public representatives in the affairs of the Health Service Executive. Limerick City & County Council has appointed seven (7) members to the Regional Health Forum West, namely *Councillors Frankie Daly, John Egan, Francis Foley, Seán Hartigan, Dan McSweeney, John Sheahan, Kevin Sheahan.*

This resolution should be brought to a Regional Health Forum meeting in the form of a Motion by one of the nominated councillors.

I will deal with any health service queries the nominated councillors have on behalf of their Council and county through the process of the Regional Health Forum meetings.

Is mise, le meas

**Antóin O Ceannabháin Tony Canavan**  
**Cathaoirleach Feidhmiúcháin Executive Chairperson**



Seirbhís Sláinte | Building a  
Níos Fearr | Better Health  
é Forbairt | Service



County Secretary

DM/ZP

7<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

**Re: December 2020 Meeting, Wexford County Council**

Dear Meeting Administrator,

At the December Meeting of Wexford County Council the Members passed the following motion:

“That this Council calls on the Department of Education and the Higher Education Institutions/ Bodies to offer a rebate scheme to third level students who are charged full rate for on-campus accommodation but are afforded limited access due to Covid restrictions for the Academic Year 2020/2021. Upon passage, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.”

It was agreed to send a copy of this motion to all Councils for their support.

Yours sincerely,



**David Minogue,**  
**County Secretary & Communications Officer.**  
**e-mail:** [david.minogue@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:david.minogue@wexfordcoco.ie)  
**Phone:** 053 9196260

**From:** oireachtaslaiison <[oireachtaslaiison@nationaltransport.ie](mailto:oireachtaslaiison@nationaltransport.ie)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:52 AM

**To:** Customer Services <[customerservices@limerick.ie](mailto:customerservices@limerick.ie)>

Dear Mr Clune

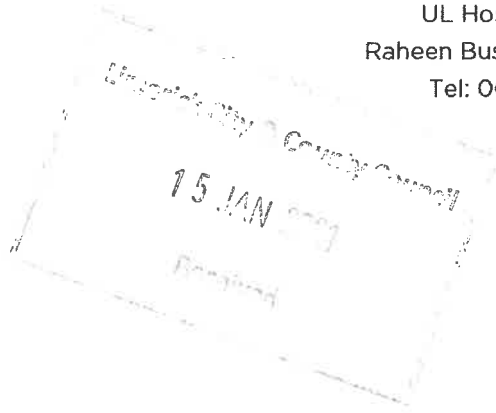
We refer to your recent correspondence regarding Limerick to Foynes Railway Line and the Ryder Cup.

The NTA is currently revising the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy based on the submissions received during public consultation in 2020. The future long term viability of the use of the existing rail network is being considered as part of this process.

Related to this, an All-Ireland strategic rail review is to be commenced by the Department of Transport in 2021. This will also examine the potential role of this line.

Yours sincerely

NTA Oireachtas Liaison



**Ref: CC/MR**  
**12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

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

**Re: Recruitment of Specialist Dietitians in Adult Diabetes**

Dear James,

In December 2020, UL Hospitals Group received confirmation of funding to recruit three additional dietetic posts for the treatment of adult diabetes. This funding has been made available through the national clinical programme for diabetes.

We will shortly commence the recruitment process for these three posts. We will be able to provide a more precise timeline on when we expect successful candidates to take up posts in the near future.

We can also confirm that we have received approval for an additional consultant endocrinologist to work with the adult service. This will bring to three the total number of consultant endocrinologists working across UL Hospitals Group. This follows the appointment of Dr Audrey Melvin, who took up post as consultant endocrinologist in October 2020.

**Background:**

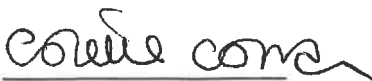
While there is a specialist dietitian working within our paediatric diabetes patients, there is currently no specialist dietitian in post for adults with Type 1 Diabetes. Patients are seen by a ward dietitian as in-patients but there is no specialist dietetic care or outpatient appointments for adult diabetes patients in UHL.



Currently, the adult service in UHL is unable to commence adult patients on insulin pumps due to service demands and funding issues. We do, however, accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients are managed under the care of a consultant endocrinologist. The largest group of these patients are those who have transferred from the paediatric diabetes service in UHL. All of our insulin pump patients are seen in UHL.

UL Hospitals Group recognises the need for additional resources within our adult diabetic services. This issue is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving the service for our patients. Developing services around insulin pump therapy and structured education in particular require us to fill further specialist posts, including these dietitian posts.

Yours sincerely



**Colette Cowan**  
**Group Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals**