

CORRESPONDENCE

May 2021 Council Meeting

- Letter received on 18th March, 2021, from the Meetings Administrator, Kerry County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council at its March Meeting opposing the introduction of the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021.
- Letter received on 23rd March, 2021, from the Meetings Administrator, Wicklow County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council at its March Meeting calling for an amendment to the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021.
- Letter received on 24th March, 2021, from the Meetings Administrator, Louth County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council at its March Meeting calling for an amendment to the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021.
- Letter received on 24th March, 2021, from the Meetings Administrator, Galway County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council at its March Meeting opposing the proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021.
- Letter received on 29th March, 2021, from the Meetings Administrator, Mayo County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council at its March Meeting opposing the introduction of the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021.
- Letter received on 8th April, 2021, from the Meetings Administrator, Cork City Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council at its March Meeting condemning racial abuse on the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Hazel Chu.
- E-Mail received on 23rd April, 2021 and letter received on 11th May, 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to the following resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021:

“That, Limerick City and County Council, recognising the scale of the Housing crisis, reaffirm its commitment to work with Government and all relevant agencies towards delivering new housing units and, in particular, ensuring that sufficient Social and Affordable housing is built for those in need of same.

Recognising, however, its duty to use Limerick City and County Council property in the best interests of society, this Council reject the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021, published by the Government, removing the role of the Elected Members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands to the Land Development Agency.

The Council further agrees to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging a removal of that provision and to ensure that Elected Councillors retain the right to control such sales or transfers and be able to prepare and plan for appropriate housing delivery on Council-owned lands.

The Council further agrees to circulate this Motion to each Local Authority, the Association of Irish Local Government and the Oireachtas Members for Limerick requesting their support for this."

- Correspondence received on 26th April, 2021, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Clare County Council, outlining the following resolutions adopted by the Council at its April Meeting:
 - (i) "That, Clare County Council write to An Taoiseach, the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Social Protection, requesting that the Carers' Allowance would no longer be means-tested, particularly for female carers."
 - (ii) "That, Clare County Council ask the HSE and the 'Connecting for Life' Initiative to pilot a 'Community Psychiatric Car Service' in the County, involving having a Community Psychiatric Nurse and Emergency Medical Technician on call 24/7."
 - (iii) "That, Clare County Council write to the Department of Health and the Minister for Health requesting that victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence have access to free psychological support and counselling during and after the legal process as required."
- E-Mail received on 26th April, 2021, from the Office of the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to retain the existing policies in relation to one-off rural housing as per the adopted Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (Section 3.9 Rural Settlement Policy and including the Rural Settlement Strategy Map) in the emerging Limerick City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.
- Letter received on 27th April, 2021, from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in reply to resolution adopted by the Council asking for the Minister's urgent intervention to find a permanent solution for the children living in

the Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre, currently without transport to and from their pre-school following the closure of the on-site pre-school facility.

- Copy of Letter sent by the A/Director of Service, Corporate Affairs, Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, to the Minister for Health, outlining resolution adopted by the Council supporting the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues impacting on people with epilepsy, relating to access to free travel and provision of reasonable accommodation for state examinations for students with epilepsy.
- Letter received on 5th May, 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in reply to the following resolution adopted by the Council:

“I will move at the next Meeting that a Bill for the appointment of an Independent Meat Regulator with statutory powers is drafted with a view to the Government / Minister for Agriculture appointing such a Regulator. The purpose of the Independent Meat Regulator with the necessary associated legislative powers would be to police and regulate the Meat Industry”.

- Letter received on 5th May, 2021 from the Office of the Minister of State at the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief in reply to the following resolution adopted by the Council:

“That, Limerick City and County Council call on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, in what is commonly known as the Invincibles Yard at Kilmainham Gaol. The bodies of these five members of the Irish National Invincibles lie beneath the paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Park assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association and the wish of the families is for their relatives to be exhumed from Kilmainham Gaol and reinterred in consecrated ground at Glasnevin Cemetery.”

- Letter received on 11th May, 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to the following resolution adopted by the Council:

“That, this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O’Brien, TD, to seek clarification on the current legislation under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan (RIHL) Scheme and to amend the legislation to allow derelict properties to be included in the Scheme. In addition, to ask what delegated authority and discretion Limerick City and County Council staff exercise in relation to this scheme”.

- Letter received on 11th May, 2021, from the Chief Executive, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council at its May Meeting in relation to the protection of native honeybees.
 - Letter received on 17th May, 2021, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Clare County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council at its May Meeting, calling on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to re-examine the current suitability of the maximum household income thresholds in the three banded areas.
-

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí,
Áras an Chontae,
Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Corporate Services

Kerry County Council,
County Buildings,
Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Guthán | Tel 066 7183514 Facs | Fax 066 7183848 Rphost | Email secretar@kerrycoco.ie Suíomh | Web www.kerrycoco.ie

16 March 2021

To/ Each Local Authority

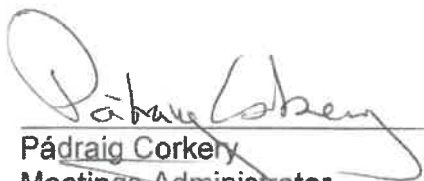
A Chairde,

I write to inform you that the members of Kerry County Council at their recent meeting adopted the following resolution.

"That we the members of Kerry County Council oppose the introduction of the Land Development Agency Bill."

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all local authorities for their attention and consideration.

Mise le meas,



Pádraig Corkery
Meetings Administrator



GAEILGE AGUS FÁILTE



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council

Fiontar & Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
Enterprise & Corporate Services

Áras An Chontae / County Buildings
Cill Mhantáin / Wicklow
Guthán / Tel: (0404) 20158
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Rphost / Email: corporate@wicklowcoco.ie
Suíomh / Website: www.wicklow.ie

Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD,
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Custom House
Dublin
D01 W6X0

23rd March, 2021

RE: Land Development Agency Bill, 2021 – Section 56 - Provision relating to local authority land.

Dear Minister,

At special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 22nd of March, 2021 the elected members unanimously passed the following resolution:-

'That the Members of Wicklow County Council call on the Government to reinstate, in the Land Development Agency Bill, the legal requirement that Councillors must consent to the sale of all public land in the ownership of the Council by way of a Disposal Motion (Section 183) voted for by a majority of Councillors in public session'.

The Elected Members requested that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to your office and also circulated to all other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Gallagher | Meetings Administrator
Director of Services | Enterprise and Corporate Services





Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

24th March 2021

Dear Meetings Administrator

The following motion was supported by the members at the March meeting of Louth County Council.

"Calling on the Minister of Housing and or the Oireachtas members to amend the LDA Bill to remove s.49 and 56 of the bill as it is ultra virus the programme of Government and is a direct stripping of Local Government Councillors executive powers".

Members requested that all local authorities receive notice of this passed motion requesting support.

Mise le meas

Grainne Tuomey
Meetings Administrator

Comhairle Contae Lú
Halla an Chontae
Ionad na Mílaoise
Dún Dealgan
Contae Lú
A91 KFW6

Louth County Council
County Hall
Millennium Centre
Dundalk
County Louth
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Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras Gaeilge - Correspondence in Irish is welcome

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

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill, Galway.
H91 H6KX.

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GalwayCounty

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
Corporate Services
(091) 509 225
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Tithíocht
Housing
(091) 509 300
housing@galwaycoco.ie

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

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& Seirbhísí Ginárálta
Roads, Transportation, Marine
& General Services
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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
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Leabharlann
Library
(091) 562 471
info@galwaylibrary.ie



CC1-1a-0025

Our Ref: MO/SE

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

24th March 2021

TO: EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

"I call on Galway County Council to make a formal submission to the Minister for Housing Local Government & Heritage outlining our complete opposition to the proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021.

The proposed removal of the Section 183 reserved function of Elected Members in relation to the disposal of local authority held land to the LDA as provided for in Part 7 Section 56 of the bill is unacceptable and an affront to local democracy. As advocates for the empowerment of local government, we can never support or accept any diminution in the reserved functions and powers of elected Councillors.

I also have concerns regarding the potential long-term implications for local authorities in delivering social and affordable housing on local authority held land due to the extensive remit of the LDA. I believe that this is a major battle in our ongoing fight to preserve the local democratic function in the face of ever increasing centralism., "

I wish for that a copy would also be circulated to other Local Authorities.

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

Mise le Meas

Michael Owens

Michael Owens
Meetings Administrator



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council

A: Aras an Chontae, Caislean an Bharráigh,
Contae Mhaigh Eo, F23 WF90
T: 094 9064000 **F:** 094 9023937
W: www.mayo.ie

Ár dTag./ Our Ref.
Do Thag./ Your Ref.

29th March 2021

All Local Authorities

Re. Proposed provisions of Land Development Agency Bill 2021.

Dear Meetings Administrator

Mayo County Council, at its meeting of 8th March 2021, has passed the following motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Kilcoyne

Seconded by: Cllr. C. Hyland

Resolved: -

"Mayo County Council wishes to formally outline its complete opposition to the proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021. The proposed removal of the Section 183 reserved function of Elected Members in relation to the disposal of local authority held land to the LDA as provided for in Part 7 Section 56 of the bill is unacceptable and an affront to Local Democracy. As advocates for the empowerment of local government, we can never support or accept any diminution in the reserved functions and powers of Elected Councillors."

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

Yours sincerely

Siofra Kilcullen
Meetings Administrator



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí Cork City Council

Halla na Cathrach, Corcaigh - City Hall, Cork - T12 T997

8th April 2021

TO: EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the March meeting of Cork City Council, the Members passed the following Motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will send a letter of support which condemns the racial and misogynistic abuse being inflicted on the Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr. Hazel Chu.’

(Proposers: Cllr. C. Finn, Cllr. O. Moran, Cllr. L. Bogue, Cllr. D. Boyle 21/118)

A letter was sent on 26th March 2021. It was agreed to send a copy of this motion to all Councils.

Mise Le Meas,

PP: Sarah O'Callaghan
Alma Murnane
Meetings Administrator



We are Cork.

From: Housing Minister
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Customer Services
Subject: FAO Mr: James Clune

23 April 2021

RE: HPLG-MOBO-00-2021.

Dear Mr Clune,

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., and Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in connection with the LDA.

Your correspondence is currently receiving attention and a further reply will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Private Secretary

Minister Darragh O'Brien's Office

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1. D01 W6X0
Custom House, Custom House Quay, Dublin D01 W6X0



17 May 2021

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

Email: customerservices@limerick.ie

RE: HPLG-MOBO-00910-2021

Dear Mr. Clune,

I refer to your correspondence of 16 April in relation to the Land Development Agency Bill, which will place the Land Development Agency (LDA) on a statutory basis as a State agency, and the queries you have raised.

The purpose of the LDA is to increase the supply of housing in the State, and in particular affordable housing, by developing and regenerating relevant public lands for the development of housing. It has two central goals to build affordable homes on relevant public lands and strategic land management. It is being set up to make the most of all relevant public lands in order to tackle the housing crisis. Relevant public lands are lands in a census town with a population of over 10,000 that is owned by a relevant public body listed in Schedule 1 or 2 of the LDA Bill, or a local authority.

The LDA has a core remit of providing affordable homes at scale in sustainable communities based on best environmental practice across under used or unused relevant public lands. Every tool needs to be used in addressing the housing crisis and relevant public lands can play an important role in providing homes for cost rental or affordable purchase in our towns and cities. In the long run the LDA will also help to strategically manage land by assembling sites in key areas.

In relation to your query concerning reserved functions under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, the matters contained in Section 56 of the Bill would only arise where the local authority has decided to put lands up for sale and must give the LDA 'first refusal' to purchase the lands under Section 51(1). This is consistent with the arrangements under Part 7 of the LDA Bill requiring all public bodies, who have decided to dispose of lands, to offer them first for sale to the LDA. In this situation, Section 183 of the Local Government Act will not apply to avoid duplicator decision making processes arising which could delay the delivery of homes on these lands. It should be emphasised that the LDA legislation has no provisions compelling local authorities to sell their land to the LDA or any other third party. The initial decision to



sell land remains with the local authority. Furthermore under Section 55 of the LDA Bill, the LDA requires the consent of the Minister for Housing for any proposed land sales by the agency itself. Section 183 of the Local Government Act will remain in force for local authority land disposals to all other parties.

Under Section 14 of the LDA Bill a local authority can direct the LDA to provide services to it in relation to the development of large scale sites for housing and urban development in population centres of 30,000 or more. These sites will predominantly remain in local authority ownership post development. It is envisaged that the majority of the LDA's work on local authority lands will be in such co-operative arrangements with the LDA as an additional resource to assist local authorities in housing delivery. The primary responsibility of local authorities as housing authorities to deliver housing will not be impacted by the LDA Bill.

I hope the above clarifies matters.

Yours sincerely,

**Niamh Redmond,
Private Secretary.**



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

26th April, 2021.

Our Ref: April 21-25

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the April meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

"I am asking Clare County Council to write to the Taoiseach, Minister for Finance and the Minister for Social Protection, to prioritise that the carers allowance is no longer means tested after the 2021 budget. Given that the majority of carers are female and the fact that carer's allowance is means tested a huge amount of women don't receive any money due to their partners earnings.

This means that women carers are reliant on their husband or partner for financial support with no support from the state. This is a throw back to the 1800's when women were not recognised by society for their contributions or value to the state. Carers are saving the state millions for this service with no recognition. The carers allowance should be provided to the carer regardless of their partners income, as that is their only means of income.

Why is it that the carers allowance is means tested but the children's allowance is universal? Is one not as important as the other? I would like the Ministers and the Taoiseach to answer these questions.

I would also like that this motion is circulated to all councils across Ireland to show solidarity and support for all carers."

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

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

**An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúirtheacht 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 | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

26th April, 2021.

Our Ref: April 21-26

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the April meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

“That Clare County Council ask the HSE and the “Connecting for Life” initiative to pilot a Community Psychiatric Car service in the County. This has been successfully piloted by the NHS in London. The Mental Health Joint Response Car (MHJRC) involves having a Community Psychiatric Nurse and Emergency Medical Technician on call 24/7. The rationale is that people in mental health crises in the community do not often require admission to hospital, rather to address their issues with trained personnel in their own homes. Equally the qualified personnel can also make the call if actual hospital admission is warranted. To date, evaluation of the pilot has proven successful in the UK and a further 7 cars are now in operation.

Currently, Goal four of Connecting for Life, Ireland's national strategy to reduce suicide 2015-2020, aims to enhance accessibility, consistency and care pathways of services for people vulnerable to suicidal behaviour. This motion seeks to enact this in real time in our communities. I also ask for the motion to be circulated to every local authority.”

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

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

**An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúirtheacht 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 | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

26th April, 2021.

Our Ref: April 21-30

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the April meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

"That Clare County Council write to the Department of Health and to Minister Stephen Donnelly requesting that Victims of Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence have access to free psychological support and counselling during and after the legal process as required. We request this support be provided bearing in mind that convicted perpetrators have access to these services at least over the duration of sentence. If passed we ask that this motion is shared with all other local authorities for support."

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

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

**An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrthóireacht 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

From: Housing Minister Of State

Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 2:07 PM

To: Customer Services

Subject: FAQ Mr James Clune

Dear Mr Clune,

On behalf of Mr Peter Burke T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16th April 2021, in relation to one-off rural housing as per the adopted Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016, which has been forwarded from the Office of Minister Darragh O'Brien.

Kind regards,

Minister of State Burke's Office

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0



23rd April 2021



Mr. James Clune ,

Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick
Ireland

Ref No: CEDIY-MOGO-02770-2021

Dear Mr. Clune,

On behalf of Roderic O'Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your letter concerning the Children living at Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre. Your correspondence is receiving attention and a further reply will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Hughes
Private Secretary to Minister Roderic O'Gorman TD

An Rannóg Gnóthaí Corparáideacha
Corporate Affairs

Secretarial Section
Leonora Earls, A/Director
Corporate Affairs
Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
Direct Tel: 01 2054826
agendamtgs@dlrcoco.ie

Stephen Donnelly,
Minister for Health,
Block 1 Miesian Plaza,
50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin 2,
D02 XW14

30th April 2021

Dear Minister,

I wish to advise you that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council at their meeting held on 28th April 2021 adopted the following resolution:

"That Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council supports the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely;


1. Access to Free Travel.
2. Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy.

The Motion to be then sent to the Minister for Health, the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Education, and to other Local Authorities for correspondence purposes."

The motion to be sent to the Minister for Health, the Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters, and to other Local Authorities for correspondence purposes."

I would appreciate your comments in this regard.

Yours sincerely



Leonora Earls
A/Director of Service
Corporate Affairs



29th April 2021

Mr. James Clune
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick
V94 EHYO

Reference No: DAFM-MMO-01081-2021



Dear Mr. Clune,

I refer to your recent correspondence addressed to Charlie McConalogue T.D., Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to the appointment of an Independent Meat Regulator.

As are aware, there is a commitment in the Programme for Government to the establishment of a new authority called the National Food Ombudsman (NFO) to enforce the Unfair Trading Practices Directive. The NFO, whose remit will include the beef sector, will have a specific role in analysing and reporting on price and market data in Ireland. It is important to be aware, however, that the Ombudsman will not have a role in determining prices for beef or any other commodity. The Minister has no plans to establish a separate regulator for the meat sector as this function will be performed by the NFO.

Establishment of the NFO is ongoing and firstly requires the drafting of a statutory instrument to transpose the UTP directive before the deadline of May 2021. Legislation is then required to establish the new office of the NFO. It is intended that there will be a national consultation process on the functions of the NFO prior to the primary legislation being enacted.

With regard to the work of the Beef Taskforce on transparency; the completion of the three market transparency studies commissioned by the Department will be an important step towards improving visibility of the complex supply chain which is integral in fostering trust and enhancing supply chain relationships. These studies will act as an important starting point for driving increased transparency. It is more important than ever that we all work together given the unique set of challenges currently faced by the sector. Continued strong and constructive engagement in the Beef Taskforce is key to meeting these challenges.

Yours sincerely,

Aiden Kelly
Private Secretary



Oifig on Aire Stáit
Office of the Minister of State

Our Ref : C/ MK - 2021/105

5th May 2021

Mr. James Clune,
james.clune@limerickcoco.ie

Dear Mr Clune,

I refer to your correspondence requesting to have the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, sensitively disinterred and reinterred at Glasnevin cemetery with the appropriate decorum.

The Office of Public Works is aware of the current campaign led by the National Graves Association to exhume and reinter the five people known as the Invincibles in Glasnevin Cemetery. Requests such as this are of a very sensitive and delicate nature and there are a number of matters to consider, both in terms of the significant practicalities involved and the ethical issues. While the general area of the site of the graves in Kilmainham is relatively well known, there is no detailed plan showing definitively exactly where individuals were interred and even were it to be precisely located, there would be practical issues involved in positively identifying the remains. It is understood from contemporaneous accounts that after execution, the remains were buried in quicklime and this would render an exhumation and positive identification very difficult, if not impossible.

Kilmainham Gaol is a National Monument and an iconic and much respected site in the context of the national independence struggle in particular. The fact that it is also a grave location adds a significant resonance to its penal and historical significance and there is a strong opposing view to the current campaign that believes that the grave should not be disturbed and the remains should be left within the confines of the Monument.



Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Oifig on Aire Stáit
Office of the Minister of State

Finally, The Office of Public Works clearly understands that any move to undertake an exhumation and re-interment project would certainly not be undertaken unilaterally and would have to be considered and approved in the first instance as a policy matter, which is outside our remit.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick O'Donovan,
Minister of State at the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief



|| May 2021.

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

Email: customerservices@limerick.ie

RE: HPLG-MOBO-00917-2020

Dear Mr. Clune,

The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a Government-backed mortgage for first-time buyers and has been made available nationwide from local authorities from 1 February 2018. The loan can be used to purchase both new and second-hand properties, or to build a home. It does not cover renovations.

The final decision on loan approval is a matter for each local authority and its Credit Committee on a case-by-case basis. Decisions on all housing loan applications must be made in accordance with the statutory credit policy that underpins the scheme, in order to ensure consistency of treatment for all applicants.

The new Programme for Government "Our Shared Future" contains a commitment to expand the Rebuilding Home Loan.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Redmond,
Private Secretary.



Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 7 May 2021

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

To: All Council Chief Executives in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

Re: Motion - Protection of Native Honeybees

At its meeting held on 4 May 2021, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council resolved that details of a Motion which it adopted at its April Council meeting, should be circulated to all Councils across the island of Ireland.

“Given Fermanagh & Omagh District Council’s commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Scheme, and noting previous Council decisions taken in relation to reducing the use of harmful pesticides, reducing grass and hedge cutting and encouraging protection and promotion of natural habitats for our bee population, this Council calls on the British Government, and on the relevant Stormont & Dáil Ministers, to oppose the importation of Italian honeybees onto this island, and to move to completely ban such actions in future.

The recently publicised move by a Kent bee keeper to avoid the import ban by importing 15 million Italian bees into Britain, via the island of Ireland, poses a serious potential threat to thousands of hives, to our native bee population and to its future viability.

The Ulster Beekeepers Association and Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association have expressed serious concern in relation to the small hive beetle and to the potential threat posed to native black Irish honeybees (which academic studies have established as the “best gene of black bees in Europe”). These worries have been echoed by beekeepers in Britain.

Mindful of such risks, FODC calls on the British & Irish Government, as well as on the relevant Ministers in Stormont, Dáil Éireann & Westminster, to stop the import of Italian bees into Britain via the North of Ireland, as well as onto the island of Ireland, North and South, with or without the intent of forward exportation”.

The Council trusts you will support the Motion and the actions detailed therein.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

17th May, 2021.

Our Ref: May 21-23/AR/MMcI

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the May meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

"To request that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage would re-examine the current suitability of the maximum household income thresholds in the three banded areas. We further request circulation to all other local authorities and Oireachtas Members."

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

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

**An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrthóireacht 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**