

CORRESPONDENCE

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

17TH MAY, 2021

- Letter dated 14th April, 2021 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in reply to Notice of Motion from Members requesting the inclusion of the opening of the Carew Park link road in the context of the M20 project.
- Email dated 14th April, 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Education in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that the Council writes to the Minister for Education and to keep the current levels of staff in St. Marys School, which has been recognised as, Deis school. The loss of staff would have a detrimental effect on the children's education and wellbeing and would be against the ethos of providing a proper education to them in their very important early years.
- Email dated 30th April, 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Education in reply to Notice of Motion from Members calling on the Minister for Education to approve as a matter of urgency the ETB's Stage 2(a) submission which was submitted in November last year for the extension in one phase to Monaleen N.S. in Castletroy.
- Letter dated 16th April, 2021 from the Chief Executive Officer, Rehab Group in reply to the following resolution adopted by Members :

"I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council opposes the closure of the Rehab Logistics Plant, calls on the Rehab group to engage with the Workplace Relations Commission and calls on the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to intervene to prevent the job losses".

Mr. Mark Leahy
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Merchants Quay
Co. Limerick

Dáta | Date
14 April 2021

Ár dTag | Our Ref.
TII21-112988

Bhur dTag | Your Ref.

Dear Mr. Leahy,

I refer to your letter of 1 April 2021 regarding the opening of a link road at Carew Park in relation to the M20 Cork to Limerick scheme. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has engaged and commented on proposals for additional connectivity to the M20/M7 on many occasions over the years with representatives from relevant stakeholders. As you may be aware, there are four existing junctions on the Southern Ring Road (SRR) at Dock Road, Rossbrien, Ballysimon and Castletroy, which provide access to all areas of Limerick City. In addition, TII considers that the M7/M20/N18 Limerick SRR, which was designed and progressed by Limerick City & County Council, fulfils objectives relating to both the wider national and regional strategic function and providing accessibility to Limerick City and environs to facilitate and support continued economic growth.

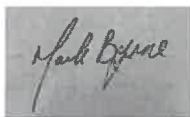
TII remains of the opinion that there are several critical issues that are required to be addressed in the interests of safeguarding the investment in and the strategic function and safety of the existing M20/M7. These include the following:

1. Demonstration of consistency with the provisions of Section 2.7 of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines;
2. Evidence that the additional traffic loading can be satisfactorily accommodated at the junction concerned and on the national road network, and the
3. Potential impacts on the Limerick Tunnel Scheme traffic volumes and the financial implications for the Exchequer of amendments or new road schemes in that context and to evaluate the consequences of same.

Taking the foregoing into account, it may not be technically feasible to safely design additional connectivity in the manner proposed.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Byrne
Regulatory and Administration Unit

From: Correspondence Unit [<mailto:no-reply@cloud.gov.ie>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>
Subject: DES-CU-02597-2021

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Mr. Mark Leahy
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Headquarters
Merchant's Quay
Limerick

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Ref: DES-CU-02597-2021

14th April 2021

Dear Mr. Leahy

I refer to your recent letter to the Minister for Education, Norma Foley T.D. in relation to staffing at St. Marys National School, Limerick.

The key factor for determining the level of staffing resources provided at individual school level is the staffing schedule for the relevant school year and pupil enrolments on the previous 30 September. The staffing schedule operates in a clear and transparent manner and treats all similar types of schools equally irrespective of location.

Budget 2021 provided for a one point improvement to the staffing schedule and introduced new retention levels for all schools. On the 1st March 2021, a further package of measures to tackle educational disadvantage was announced, which extended the one point improvement to all DEIS schools.

The staffing process contains an appeals mechanism for schools to submit a staffing appeal under certain criteria to the Primary Staffing Appeals Board. The Appeals Board operates independently of the Department and its decision is final.

The staffing schedule for the 2021/22 school year, including the appeals process, is available on the Department website.

Yours sincerely

Derek Newcombe
Private Secretary.

From: Correspondence Unit <no-reply@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>
Subject: DES-CU-02598-2021

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Mr. Mark Leahy

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Ref: DES-CU-02598-2021

30th April 2021

Dear Mr. Leahy

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley TD, in relation to accommodation at Monaleen National School, Castletroy.

The project for Monaleen NS has been devolved for delivery to Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (ETB).

I can confirm that following the recent Stage 2A meeting with the Department, the ETB and the Design Team, the project was approved to Stage 2B. The next step for the ETB's Design Team is to obtain the statutory planning approvals. When these are in place, the project can proceed to tender and construction. It is not possible at this stage to provide a timeline for the completion of the project.

Yours sincerely

Derek Newcombe,
Private Secretary.



RehabGroup

Investing in People, Changing Perspectives



Mr Mark Leahy,
Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Councils
Corporate Headquarters
Merchant's Quay,
Limerick

16th April 2021



Dear Mr Leahy,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding an upcoming motion on our Limerick plant at Raheen Business Park.

Rehab Enterprises Ltd, a division of the Rehab Group, which provides full and part-time employment to people with disabilities, has now closed its Rehab Logistics facility in Raheen Business Park, Co Limerick.

The facility at Raheen had been providing its customers with bespoke electrical assembly items and a small fulfilment service since the 1990's. The business, which has been significantly loss-making for a number of years, suffered a further deterioration in its finances arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. This led to the facility being closed for a number of months in 2020, and thereafter to operate at a significantly reduced capacity which further impacted margins.

We have made every effort in recent years to identify alternative business opportunities and to adapt our business model in Raheen. Unfortunately, this was not successful. The company entered into a process of consultation with 37 of its employees in mid-February, which has now been concluded; with the individuals affected offered a redundancy package. Rehab Enterprises has demonstrated a commitment to work with its employees in respect of the redundancy and the terms offered. We have also continued to work with SIPTU (the recognised Trade Union) in respect of their members. We have attended the WRC on two occasions in recent weeks and have made a joint submission to the Labour Court which will be heard later in the month.

Rehab is meanwhile working with each staff member to support them on an individual basis in a bid to find an alternative work or training opportunity.

The Rehab Group

Directors A Walsh (Chairman), I Brady, R Barker, H Bunbury, A Duffy, K Marshall, H McGarvey, N O'Kelly, M Doyle, K Vickers, P Burke, M Kelly R. Smyth, M, McGarry, F. Hartley

Registered Office 10D Beckett Way, Park West Business Park, Dublin 12, D12 K276.

Company limited by guarantee. Registered in Dublin No. 14800 CHY4940

Rehab Group is a NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

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We are greatly appreciative of the positive working relationship that we have had with many valued partners over the years in the Limerick area who have worked with us to provide meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the Limerick community. It is a matter of great regret that we have found ourselves in these very difficult circumstances.

If you need further clarification please don't hesitate to contact me,

Yours sincerely,

Barry McGinn
Chief Executive Officer

The Rehab Group

Directors A Walsh (Chairman), I Brady, R Barker, H Bunbury, A Duffy, K Marshall, H McGarvey, N O'Kelly, M Doyle, K Vickers, P Burke, M Kelly R. Smyth, M, McGarry, F. Hartley

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