

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **September 2022 Council Meeting**

- Letter received on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Government and the Minister for Housing to declare a housing emergency and to use emergency powers to introduce a moratorium on evictions similar to COVID emergency measures until the Minister for Housing raises the income thresholds for social housing supports for a three month period with an option to review thereafter.
- Copy of letter sent to the Minister for Health by Wexford County Council – received on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 - outlining resolution adopted by the Council seeking the retention and expansion of Long COVID Clinics.
- E-Mail received on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for the enactment of legislation to compel banks/financial institutions/lending agencies to accept rental payments history as proof of capacity to repay as part of all mortgage assessment considerations, or assessments for Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan or Rent to Buy Scheme - rental payments history should be viewed in a similar manner to savings, taking account of the fact that many renters have demonstrated a strong payment record over a significant period of time.
- Letter received on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, from the Office of the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for a solution to allow artists with disabilities to be in receipt of the Basic Income for Artists payment without it affecting their disability supports and requesting the introduction of a Pilot Scheme for artists with disabilities, to co-exist for the duration for the Basic Income for Artists Pilot Scheme which would remove the weekly earnings limit and means test from those in receipt of disability supports.
- Letter received on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022, from the Office of the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Government to change national policy to support the liquefied natural gas plant at Ballylongford.

- Email received on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, from the Office of the Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy in reply to resolution adopted by the Council 'seeking additional funding for Mid-West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Services and provide more transitional housing.'
  - Letter received on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, from the Meetings Administrator, Tipperary County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to provide significant additional funding to Local Authorities in 2023 having regard to unprecedented levels of inflation, spiralling energy costs, rising construction costs, enhanced payroll commitments, and impact of the cost of living on other revenue streams such as rents and rates, with such additional funding being crucial to maintaining essential services.
  - Letter received on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, from the Meetings Administrator, Mayo County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to update the criteria for the first-time buyer's derelict property grant, Croí Cónaithe, to enable derelict properties in rural areas to be eligible to avail of the scheme in an effort to address the critically low supply of houses across the country, with only homes available in towns and villages currently eligible.
  - Letter received on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, from the Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council, calling on the Minister for Finance to introduce a windfall tax on energy companies' excessive profits at a time when ordinary people cannot afford to heat their homes, and the funds to be ring-fenced for redistribution over the winter to those most in need.
  - Letter received on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, from the Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council, calling for a countywide audit of the availability of disabled parking places, to include all urban areas and tourist amenities.
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4th July 2022

Ms. Laura Flannery Meetings Administrator  
Limerick City & County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick  
V94 EH90

Reference Number: DOT-TM-09872-2022

Dear Ms. Flannery

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D., dated 1st July 2022.

I have forwarded your correspondence to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O'Brien T.D., for attention.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Garry  
Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021  
Email: [taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie)

County Secretary

MD/ZP

26<sup>th</sup> July, 2022

Mr. Stephen Donnelly,  
Minister for Health,  
Leinster House,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Minister,

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

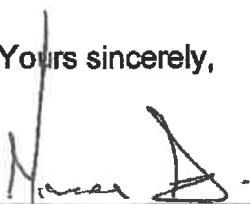
*"The Council agrees to write to Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly, the Oireachtas Health Committee and the HSE CEO Paul Reid requesting that the provision of Long Covid Clinics is retained and expanded.*

*The Council also agrees to raise it with our regional health board and/or local hospital and at any other suitable juncture.*

*The Council then agrees to circulate this motion to other Councils asking them to consider the same".*

I would appreciate if you could note the view of the Members and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Drea,  
County Secretary & Communications Officer  
e-mail: [michael.drea@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:michael.drea@wexfordcoco.ie)  
Phone: 053 9196260

c.c. Oireachtas Health Committee - ([health@oireachtas.ie](mailto:health@oireachtas.ie))  
HSE CEO Paul Reid ([ceo.office@hse.ie](mailto:ceo.office@hse.ie))  
All Local Authorities



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**From:** Housing Minister  
**Sent:** Tuesday 26 July 2022 20:42  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** RE: HPLG-MOBO-01644-2022 FAO Ms Laura Flannery

26 July 2022

Ms Laura Flannery

RE: HPLG-MOBO-01644-2022

Dear Ms. Flannery,

I have been asked by Mr. Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Planning Local Government and Heritage, to refer to your letter on behalf of Limerick City and County Council dated 21 June 2022.

The Local Authority Home Loan is a Government backed mortgage for those on modest or low incomes who cannot get sufficient funding from commercial banks to purchase or build a home. It has been available nationwide from local authorities since 4 January 2022. The loan can be used both for new and second-hand properties, or to self-build. It is the successor to the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan.

To support prudential lending, applicants must have a deposit equivalent to at least 10% of the purchase price of the property. Of this deposit, cash savings should provide no less than 3% of the purchase price of the property and applicants must provide bank or similar statements for a 12-month period immediately prior to making an application clearly showing a credible and consistent track record of savings. Gifts can comprise the remaining 7% of the purchase price of the property where their source is verified. I have no plans to change the deposit or savings requirements for the scheme.

The availability of the Help to Buy scheme for first-time buyers offers additional assistance to purchasers using the Local Authority Home Loan to buy newly built properties. This should alleviate some of the challenges faced by first-time buyers in accessing the 10% deposit of the purchase price of the property.

The final decision on loan approval is a matter for the relevant 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 prudence and consistency in approaches in the best interests of both borrowers and the lending local authorities.

Further details on the Local Authority Home Loan scheme can be found on <https://localauthorityhomeloan.ie/>

Yours sincerely,

**Niamh Redmond**  
**Private Secretary**

**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Laura Flannery,  
Corporate Services,  
Limerick City & County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick.

26 July 2022

Our Ref: CHG-MO-01722-2022

Dear Ms Flannery,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence to Catherine Martin, TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in connection with Basic income for Artist Scheme.

We will be in touch in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Naughton.

Minister's Office



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

**23 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D2 TD30**

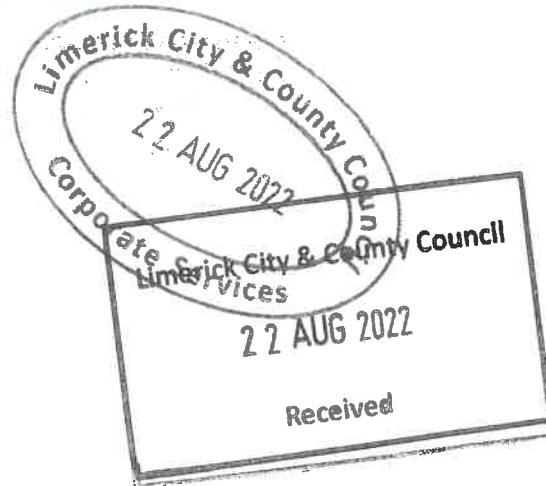
23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 TD30

[www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)

An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

Ms. Laura Flannery  
Corporate Services,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
Merchants Quay,  
V94 EH90

Our Ref: CCAE-MO-01370-2022



18th August 2022

Dear Laura,

I refer to your correspondence, dated 29th April 2022, in relation to XXX.

Thank you for your correspondence of 29th April 2022 which was transferred from the Department of An Taoiseach.

In relation to Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications is carrying out a review of the security of energy supply.

The review is considering the risks to both natural gas and electricity supplies, and a range of measures, including the need for additional capacity of indigenous renewable energy but also to import energy (such as liquified natural gas), energy storage, fuel diversification and renewable gases (such as hydrogen). The completion of the review is a key priority and per the Framework is scheduled for delivery in Q3 of this year.

In May 2021, the Government approved and published a Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas. The policy statement sets out the Government's position

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[minister.ryan@dcae.gov.ie](mailto:minister.ryan@dcae.gov.ie) | [www.dcae.gov.ie](http://www.dcae.gov.ie)

*D'fhonn is go gcuirfead feidhmeanna na Roinne i gcrích, agus seirbhísí ar fáil, coanglaíonn an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide go soláthroidh custaiméirí sonraí pearsanta áirithe. Féadtar do shonraí pearsanta a mhalartú le Ranna Rialtais eile agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile in imthosca áirithe de réir dlí. Tugtar sonraí íomlána sa bhFógra um Priobháideacht Sonraí atá ar fáil ar [www.dcae.gov.ie](http://www.dcae.gov.ie), nó i bhfoirm chruachóipe ama iarraidh sin.*

*The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment requires customers to provide certain personal data in order to provide services and carry out the functions of the Department. Your personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments and Agencies in certain circumstances, where lawful. Full details can be found in the Data Privacy*

*Notice, which is available at [www.dcae.gov.ie](http://www.dcae.gov.ie) or in hard copy upon request.*

that, pending the outcome of the review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems, it would not be appropriate for the development of any LNG terminals in Ireland to be permitted or proceeded with. Following its publication, this policy statement was notified to An Bord Pleanála by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Clearly there are a range of measures that needed to be listed for the review and understood in terms of their implications. However, for the avoidance of doubt, we must continue to accelerate the clean energy transition, focussing on energy efficiency and renewable energies. Neither the review, nor any potential recommendations relating to LNG, have yet been submitted to Government.

Yours Sincerely

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Minister's Office on behalf of Eamon Ryan T.D.

Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment



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From: Minister of State Feighan  
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 3:18 PM  
To: Customer Services  
Subject: Funding for Mid West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Services

Ref: HEA-MoSF-00186-2022  
9th September 2022

Ms. Laura Flannery

Dear Ms. Flannery,

Thank you for your correspondence concerning funding for Mid-West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Services. I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

In Budget 2022, Minister Minister for State for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan TD, secured an additional €6m for new measures to support the national drugs strategy "Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery". This funding is being used to strengthen the health-led approach to drug and alcohol use, as set out in the Programme for Government.

The Department of Health has approved funding to recruit over 35 health care professionals, including the recent approval of €50,000 for a project worker in the Community Healthcare Organisation for Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary/East Limerick (CHO3) . Other health care professionals recruited nationally include clinical nurse specialists, psychologists, and addiction counsellors to provide specialist drug and alcohol services. In addition, health supports for 240 long-term homeless tenancies have been provided for under the Housing First programme.

In December 2021, Minister Feighan announced a €2 million fund to enhance community-based drug and alcohol services. The fund is part of the strategic priority to enhance access to and delivery of drug and alcohol services in the community in the national drugs strategy 2021-2025. Details of the fund were presented to the network of drug and alcohol task forces. He has allocated between €200,000 and €240,000 per annum to the nine CHOs, who will then commission community-based drug and alcohol services based on an assessment of population needs.

Community-based drug and alcohol services in the Midwest Region should benefit from this funding.

More information on the CSEF can be found [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy announces €2 million Community Services Enhancement Fund for drug and alcohol services (www.gov.ie).

I hope this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

\_\_\_\_\_  
Conaire Fitzpatrick  
Private Secretary



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae  
Thiobraid Árann,  
Oifigí Cathartha,  
Cúain Maela,  
Co. Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council,  
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Co. Tipperary  
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16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

To/ All Local Authorities

A Chara

The following motion was supported by the members at a recent meeting of Tipperary County Council.

**"That we, the members of Tipperary County Council, call on the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform to provide significant additional funding to Local Authorities in 2023 having regard to the unprecedented levels of inflation, in particular, spiralling energy costs, rising construction costs, enhance payroll commitments, impact of the cost of living on other revenue streams such as rents and rates. Such additional funding is crucial to maintaining essential services. Subject to the agreement of the members this NOM would be also circulated to all other local authorities".**

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

Mise, le meas

Ger Walsh,  
Meetings Administrator



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council

A: Aras an Chontae, Caisleán an Bharráigh,  
Contae Mhaigh Eo, F23 WF90

T: 094 9064000 F: 094 9023937

W: [www.mayo.ie](http://www.mayo.ie)

Ár dTag./ Our Ref.

Do Thag./ Your Ref.

16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

All Local Authorities

Re. Expansion of eligible criteria for Croí Cónaithe



A Chara,

The following motion was supported by the members at a recent meeting of Mayo County Council.

**"Calling on the Minister for Housing to update the criteria for the first-time buyer's derelict property grant Croí Cónaithe, to enable derelict properties in rural areas to be eligible to avail of the scheme to help address the critically low supply of house across the country. Currently, only homes available in towns and villages are eligible for the scheme."**

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

Mise, le meas

Martina Hughes  
Meetings Administrator



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH  
ÁRAS CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNTY HALL RIVERSIDE SLIGO

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Our Ref: 09/2022-20

19<sup>th</sup> September 2022

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the Members agreed the following resolution:

*"For this council to write to the Minister for Finance to introduce a windfall tax on energy companies' excessive profits at a time when ordinary people cannot afford to heat their home, and the funds from this windfall tax be ring-fenced for redistribution over the winter to those most in need. Can this motion also be shared with other local authorities around the country."*

Yours sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Colreavy  
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Section  
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Sligo F91 Y763  
Tel: 0719111216  
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Our Ref: 09/2022-22

19<sup>th</sup> September 2022

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the Members agreed the following resolution:

*"That Sligo County Council carry out a county wide audit of the availability of disabled parking places. This to include all urban areas and tourist amenities. A copy of this motion to be sent to all Local Authorities in the state."*

Yours sincerely,

  
Kevin Colreavy  
Meetings Administrator

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