

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-10123-2022

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To: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>

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Ms. Laura Flannery

customerservices@limerick.ie

Ministerâ€™s Reference: DJE-MO-10123-2022

Dear Ms. Flannery,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Justice Ms Helen McEntee TD, regarding the Local Community Safety Partnership model. I am responding on the Minister's behalf.

As you may be aware, Minister McEntee published the general scheme of the landmark Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill earlier this year. The Bill will provide for a key principle from the report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland - that preventing crime and harm and making our communities safer does not rest with An Garda SÃ³chÃ¡na and the Department of Justice alone.

Rather, it will be best achieved as a whole-of-government responsibility with Departments and agencies responsible for health and social services, education authorities and local authorities, the GardaÃ and the wider community working together.

Community safety is about people being safe and feeling safe within their communities. Ireland is generally regarded as a safe country in international terms, with relatively low crime rates and a general feeling of safety and security. However, we recognise that this is not the case in every community and that people living in some areas can experience a different reality.

A community safety approach prioritises issues identified by the community itself as safety concerns and increases community confidence in service providers.

The new Bill will achieve this by establishing innovative Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) to develop local safety plans, tailored to the priorities and needs identified by

communities themselves. The Local Community Safety Partnerships will build upon and replace the existing Joint Policing Committees and will provide a forum for State agencies and local community representatives to work together to act on community concerns.

The Minister is committed to reflecting on the kind of society and country we wish to not only live in now and in the coming decades, but the kind of country we wish to leave to our children and to the future generations who follow.

That is what the Local Community Safety Partnership model is intended to be: A model that builds on the past, on the structures of the Joint Policing Committees, in order to develop and deliver a modern fit-for-purpose forum for the future.

The partnership approach is built on two premises:

- Every community is different and has different problems and issues; and
- Responding to those problems and issues requires a range of inputs from across Government, local services, the voluntary sector and the community itself.

Three pilot LCSPs have been fully established in Dublin North Inner City, Longford and Waterford. The pilots have been working to develop unique community safety plans, and the Longford Local Community Safety Pilot published its plan on 19 September.

Each LCSP pilot consists of 30 members including an independent chairperson. The remaining 29 members are divided in a 14/15 split in favour of non-public representatives.

Non-public membership relate to those who are not members of public body agencies or service providers. This can include local residents, community representatives (including youth, older persons, minority and new community representatives), business representatives, education representatives, voluntary sector representatives etc. The specific membership composition of each individual partnership is flexible depending on the needs of the particular local community and is outlined in the individual Terms of Reference of each Partnership. The Partnerships meet on a regular basis with at least four meetings a year.

Each pilot has also employed a Community Safety Coordinator who provides the day-to-day contact between the community and the partnership, runs projects within the community and generally acts as a focal point through which community concerns can be channelled.

The pilots will run for two years and each pilot is subject to an ongoing independent evaluation, lasting for the 24 month duration of the pilots. The overall aim of the evaluation is to provide actionable evidence to help inform the development of the LCSPs and their rollout across the country on completion of the pilot period, after the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill is enacted.

Over time, the evaluation will assess how well the Local Community Safety Partnership pilots identified the priorities and concerns of their respective communities; how the LCSPs conducted their work; the engagement and relationships the LCSPs have had with the local communities; and the impact of the LCSP work on community safety.

Findings from the evaluation process will inform future rollout of the LCSP model in every local authority area. The initial phase of fieldwork was focused on reviewing processes and establishing a baseline for any outcomes of the work of the Partnership pilots over the next two years.

Establishing a baseline is an important aspect of the evaluation as it ensures a solid understanding of the starting point against which to compare the data at the latter stages of the evaluation.

A baseline report has been completed and submitted to the Department and will be published on the Departmentâ€™s new community safety website.

The mid-term evaluation, which will report on findings from the pilots, is due in Q4 2022.

I trust the above information is of use.

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Yours sincerely,

Emma McHugh

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice

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