

CORRESPONDENCE

November 2023 Council Meeting

- Letter received on 20th September, 2023, from the Meetings Administrator, Cork City Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to road deaths and calling on national authorities to review policies in this regard.
- E-Mail received on 3rd October, 2023, from the Office of the Minister for Finance in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“calling on the Minister for Health and the Minister for Finance to raise the funding support for the Cuan Mhuire Association in Bruree, and also in their Centres throughout the country, from ten euro per bed per night to fifty euro per bed per night.”*
- Letter received on 3rd October, 2023, from the Director of Service, Corporate Affairs, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council backing the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- E-Mail received on 4th October, 2023, from the Office of the Minister for Mental Health and Older People in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“calling on the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, TD, and the Minister of State at the Department of Health, Mary Butler, TD, to provide the necessary funding to the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) to stop further nursing home closures and bring fees payable in line with the reality of nursing home care costs, and it must also bring into effect a Fair Deal pricing mechanism that reflects the reality of residents’ care needs.”*
- Letter received on 5th October, 2023, from the Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *“the Council write to the Minister for Transport, Transport for Ireland and Iarnród Éireann to ask that the decision to no longer accept individual Third Level ID be reversed or at least done on a phased basis.”*
- Letter received on 9th October, 2023, from the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“calling on the Revenue Commissioners to grant a tax rebate to people who contribute to have public roads repaired under the Community Involvement Grant Scheme and the Local Improvement Scheme.”*

- Letter received on 12th October, 2023, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department, Finance and Support Services Directorate, Clare County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling for the inclusion of traffic calming measures as one of the planning conditions for all new housing developments, in the interests of safety.
- E-Mail received on 18th October, 2023, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“calling on the Minister for Health and the Minister for Finance to raise the funding support for the Cuan Mhuire Association in Bruree, and also in their Centres throughout the country, from ten euro per bed per night to fifty euro per bed per night.”*
- Letter received on 19th October, 2023, from the Local Government Management Agency in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“that the Council stand in solidarity with FÓRSA members in Limerick City and County Council and other local authorities across the state and support their call for a formal job evaluation process by calling on the Minister for Housing and the Local Government Management Agency to return to negotiations with FÓRSA and to agree a mechanism for progressing the job evaluation process.”*
- E-Mail received on 24th October, 2023, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“calling for tenants of Approved Housing Bodies to be given the same rights as Local Authority housing tenants in the option of purchasing their rented home, should they wish to do so.”*
- Further Letter received on 26th October, 2023, from the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“calling on the Revenue Commissioners to grant a tax rebate to people who contribute to have public roads repaired under the Community Involvement Grant Scheme and the Local Improvement Scheme.”*
- Letter received on 3rd November, 2023, from the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *“Limerick City and County Council stand in solidarity with FÓRSA members in Limerick City and County Council and other local authorities across the state and support their call for a formal job evaluation process by calling on Minister for Housing, Darragh O’Brien, T.D., and the Local Government Management Agency, to return to negotiations with FÓRSA and to agree a mechanism for progressing the job evaluation process.”*

- Letter received on 13th November, 2023, from the Office of the Minister for Finance in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *“the Minister for Housing is called upon to reconsider the Government’s position in relation to the tax placed on residentially zoned land.”*
 - Letter received on 14th November, 2023, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Clare County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling for the introduction of Primary Medical Certificates (PMCs) for all individuals with physical disabilities.
 - Email received on 13th November, 2023, from the Office of the Minister for Mental health and Older People in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *‘calling on the Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health and Older People to provide the necessary funding to the National treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) to stop further nursing home closures and bring fees payable in line with the reality of nursing home care costs; and also bringing into effect a Fair Deal pricing mechanism reflecting the reality of residents’ care needs.’*
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Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí Cork City Council

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

20th September 2023

To: All Local Authorities

Re: Policies to Reduce Road Deaths

Dear Meeting Administrator,

At a meeting of An Chomhairle held on the 11th September 2023 the following Motion was adopted and I was requested to bring it to your attention:-


POLICIES TO REDUCE ROAD DEATHS

‘That this Council notes with concern the upward turn in road deaths, in particular the exponential growth in pedestrian deaths, and calls upon national authorities to review policies that can help reverse this trend.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/399)

I would be grateful if you could circulate to your members.

Yours sincerely,


Alma Murnane
Meetings Administrator
Cork City Council

CC: Mr. Sam Waide, Chief Executive Officer, The Road Safety Authority.



We are Cork.

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Tuesday 3 October 2023 10:23
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FIN-MO-04587-2023

Our Ref: FIN-MO-04587-2023

Ms Laura Flannery
Meetings Administrator
Limerick City and County Council

Dear Ms Flannery

The Minister for Finance, Mr Michael McGrath TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter regarding a resolution adopted by Limerick City and County Council in relation to Cuan Mhuire Association in Bruree.

The issue raised is a matter in the first instance for Mr Stephen Donnelly TD, Minister for Health, whom I note you have written to also.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Flynn

Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance

A Member of the Minister for Finance staff. The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on www.lobbying.ie).



**An Rannóg Gnóthaí Corparáideacha
Corporate Affairs**

Stephen Brady, Director
Corporate Affairs
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
Direct Tel: 01 2054826
agendamtgs@dlrcoco.ie

26th September 2023.

To All Local Authorities

Dear Meeting Administrator,

I wish to advise you that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council at their meeting held on 11th September 2023 adopted the following resolution:

"That Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. If passed, a letter should be sent to all local Councils, An Taoiseach, An Tánaiste and the Minister for the Environment, and further recognises as part of a just transition there must be ongoing measures to address fuel and energy poverty'."

I would appreciate your comments in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Brady
Director of Service
Corporate Affairs



From: Minister of State Butler
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 3:54 PM
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HEA-MoSB-01361-2023

HEA-MoSB-01361-2023

4th October 2023

Laura Flannery

Meetings Administrator

Dear Ms. Flannery,

Mary Butler T.D, Minister for Mental Health and Older People, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence regarding the September Meeting of Limerick City and County Council concerning NTPF funding, Nursing Homes closures and the Fair Deal Scheme.

This matter is currently being investigated and a further reply will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Pádraig Kelly

Private Secretary to Minister Butler

Laura Flannery
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City & County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick
V94 EH90
customerservices@limerick.ie



5th October 2023

Dear Ms Flannery,

Thank you for your letter of 27th September regarding Third Level ID Cards.

From 3rd September last, to avail of the Student fare – the only ID accepted is the TFI Young Adult / Student Leap Card. The link to the information on the website is [Student Tickets - ID Requirements](#) (below is a extract detailing this from the webpage).

ID Card Requirements

Customers travelling on a young adult / student Intercity ticket must have one of these forms of ID on their person whilst travelling:

- [TFI Young Adults \(19 – 23 years\) Leap Card](#)
- [TFI Student Leap Card](#)

Important: Changes to Student ID requirements from 3rd September 2023

To ensure a consistent approach across the [Transport For Ireland](#) network of public transport operators, from September 3rd 2023, only the [TFI Student Leap Card](#) or [TFI Young Adult \(19-23\) Leap Card](#) and [Translink yLink card](#) will be valid for student / young adult fares on all Iarnród Éireann Intercity, DART or commuter services.

Individual third level Institution cards or ISIC cards will no longer be accepted from 3rd September.

Please ensure you have a valid card when purchasing student / young adult fares and can show it when inspected during your journey.

For your information, fares determination, fares structures and LEAP card validity are the remit of the National Transport Authority.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Meade

Chief Executive



Oifig an Chathaoirleáil
Chairman's Office



Revenue
Cáin agus Custaim na hÉireann
Irish Tax and Customs



Oifig na gCoimisinéirí Ioncaim
Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath
Baile Átha Cliath 2
D02 F342
Éire

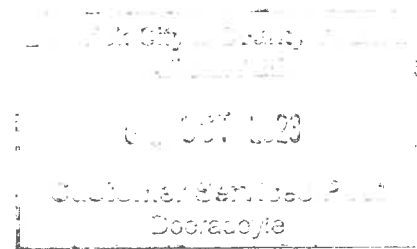
www.revenue.ie

Office of the Revenue Commissioners
Dublin Castle
Dublin 2
D02 F342
Ireland

300883/23

04 October 2023

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



Dear Ms. Flannery,

The Chairman has asked me to write to you to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of 27 September 2023.

The matter is receiving attention and I will write to you again soon.

Yours sincerely,

p.p. Michaela O'Neill
Siobhán Gilbourne,
Private Secretary.



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

12th October, 2023.

Our Ref: October 23 - 24/AR/AC



Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the October meeting of the Council the members passed the following resolution:

“In future housing developments and as part of the planning process, there should be a planning condition to all new housing applications stating that part of the conditions would be that traffic calming measures would be part of the development, as a matter of safety for all concerned.”

It was agreed to circulate this resolution to all local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

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

An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúirthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacalochta
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: Ministers Office
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:06 PM
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-06717-2023

18th October 2023

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 27th September.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Conroy

Private Secretary



LGMA

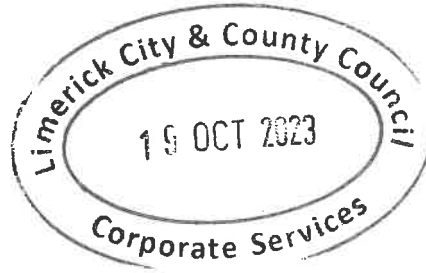
An Ghníomhaireacht
Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil

Local Government
Management Agency



12th October 2023

Laura Flannery,
Meetings Administrator,
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Merchants Quay
Limerick



Dear Laura,

Thank you for your letter of 26th September 2023 in relation to the meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 25th September 2023 at which a resolution was adopted supporting the Fórsa members' request for a job evaluation scheme.

The matter was subject to discussion at the Workplace Relations Committee and the parties have now agreed a way forward.

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Dunne,

LGMA Board Secretary

From: Minister O'Brien Office
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 1:07 PM
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MOBO-01118-2023

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

24th October 2023

RE: HPLG-MOBO-01118-2023

Dear Ms. Flannery

I have been asked by Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage to reply to your correspondence informing him of Limerick City and County Council meeting proposal to adopt the resolution; giving the same rights to both Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) tenants and Local Authority tenants to purchase their rented homes.

The Minister has asked me to remind you that Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) (also called housing associations or voluntary housing associations) are independent, not-for-profit organisations. They provide affordable rented housing for people who cannot afford to pay private sector rents or buy their own homes; or for particular groups, such as older people or homeless people.

As you are aware, AHB's can apply to the Department for funding (under various funding schemes) for the development, purchase, or building of social housing properties. Under the terms of the various funding schemes supporting the delivery of social housing by AHBs, AHBs are the legal owners of the properties and must make them available for social renting for the duration of the mortgage / the availability agreement. On expiry of the mortgage period and subject to compliance with the terms of the funding agreement, the AHB becomes the owner of the property.

As not-for-profit bodies, AHBs are limited in their ability to sell any property on the open market at a value which is less than the market value of the property. While subsequent to the completion of the terms and agreement of any state funding, the AHB is the sole owner of a property and may technically dispose of a property once it complies with its own Articles of Association. Any sale must be in compliance with the Memorandum and Articles of

Association of the AHBs and it is therefore advisable for the AHB to consult with the Charities Regulator in this regard if it is a registered charity.

However, it is a matter of general policy that AHB homes developed for social housing purposes are retained as such. The Department cannot unilaterally make provision for the sale of AHB homes to their tenants as the ownership of these properties remains with the AHB.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Redmond
Private Secretary



Oifig an Chathaoirligh
Chairman's Office

Revenue 
Cáin agus Custaim na hÉireann
Irish Tax and Customs

www.revenue.ie

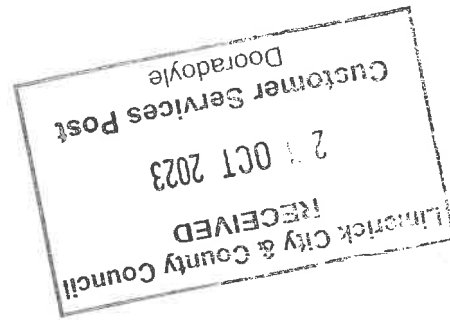
Oifig na gCoimisinéirí Ioncaim
Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath
Baile Átha Cliath 2
D02 F342
Éire

Office of the Revenue Commissioners
Dublin Castle
Dublin 2
D02 F342
Ireland

300883/23

23 October 2023

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



Dear Ms. Flannery,

The Chairman has asked me to write to you regarding your letter concerning the following resolution adopted at the September meeting of Limerick City & County Council:

“That, Limerick City & County Council call on the Revenue Commissioners to grant a tax rebate to people who contribute to have public roads repaired under the Community Involvement Grant Scheme and the Local Improvement Scheme.”

As it would not be possible for Revenue to grant such a tax rebate in the absence of a statutory basis for doing so, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to the Tax Division of the Department of Finance for consideration by Department officials.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhán Gilbourne,
Private Secretary.



31st October 2023

Ms Laura Flannery
Limerick City & County Council
customerservices@limerick.ie



Ref No: HPLG-MOSOD-00727-2023

Dear Ms Flannery,

I wish to refer to your recent correspondence advising that Limerick City and County Council adopted a resolution on the job evaluation claim submitted by Forsa and the associated industrial action that has taken place recently.

Under the Local Government Act 2001, each Chief Executive is responsible for the staffing and organisational arrangements necessary for carrying out the functions of the local authority for which he or she is responsible. The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) represents the local government sector's management in discussions with Unions at sector level.

The Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform is responsible for public pay policy and I have no role in relation to the recent dispute.

I am aware that talks in respect of this claim concluded without resolution at the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) in July. It was open thereafter for Forsa to utilise the provisions of the Public Service Agreement and / or the State Industrial Relations process. Forsa instead, escalated immediately to industrial action.

Government has engaged with staff representative associations collectively since the early days of social partnership to reach a decision on multi-annual pay agreements for

public servants. The current agreement, Building Momentum, runs to the end of 2023 and provides a 9.5% pay increase over 3 years for most public servants, increasing to 12.5% for lower paid staff. All forms of industrial action are precluded in respect of any matters relating to remuneration or to any matter covered by the Agreement.

It is important that the industrial relations mechanisms available are utilised and in this regard I understand that both parties attended conciliation at the WRC on 25 September. Following this engagement, the parties have agreed that subject to the provisions of the next Public Service Agreement, discussions on which are expected to commence shortly, there will be further engagement on the matter. Accordingly, the Forsa led industrial action ended.

Yours sincerely,



Kieran O'Donnell
Minister of State for Local Government and Planning

Please note: I am a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act



Our REF: FIN-MO-04603-2023

08 November 2023

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



Dear Ms Flannery

The Minister for Finance, Mr Michael McGrath TD, has asked me to reply to your correspondence of 26 September regarding the Residential Zoned Land Tax which was forwarded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for direct reply to you.

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) is a new tax introduced in Finance Act 2021 which seeks to increase housing supply by encouraging the activation of development on lands which are suitably zoned and appropriately serviced. It aims to bring those lands which have benefitted from investment in services and are capable of being developed forward for housing. The tax is an action contained in Housing for All, the Government's plan for housing, to increase housing supply and is supported in the Programme for Government. The tax applies to land that is zoned suitable for residential development and serviced.

The tax measure is a key pillar of the Government's response to address the urgent need to increase housing supply in suitable locations. However, it is important that affected landowners have sufficient opportunity to engage with the mapping process and that a fair and transparent process is applied when local authorities consider what land should be placed on the RZLT maps. Therefore, as part of Budget 2024, it was decided to extend the liability date of the tax by one year, from February 2024 to February 2025. The purpose of this deferral is to allow for the annual mapping cycle to complete and afford landowners another opportunity to make submissions if their land is included on the maps prepared by local authorities.

The deferral will provide a further opportunity to landowners whose land will appear on a draft revised final map to be published on 1 February 2024 to request the rezoning of such land from the local authority in whose functional area the land is situated.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Niamh Kavanagh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Niamh Kavanagh
Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

14th November, 2023.

Our Ref: November23 - 21/AR/AC

Dear Meeting Administrator,

At the November meeting of the Council the members passed the following resolution and agreed that this request should issue to the Minister for Finance, Minister for Health and the Taoiseach and be circulated to Oireachtas Members and other Local Authorities:

“Today I want to encourage all of you to urge the Minister for Finance to take immediate action in introducing Primary Medical Certificates (PMCs) to all individuals with physical disabilities.

I also call upon the members of the Seanad to initiate a commencement debate emphasizing the critical necessity for the Minister for Finance to issue PMCs to all those with physical disabilities.

In recent weeks, I have received numerous heartfelt communications from individuals across our county. These messages have come from parents and family members who share a common belief with me - that the widespread issuance of PMCs to individuals with physical disabilities could significantly enhance the quality of life for these individuals and their families.

I understand this is not the first time this issue has been brought to the attention of the Minister, or the Ministers before him, and undoubtedly it will continue to be raised with the ministers who follow.

People born with physical disabilities often endure a multitude of health challenges, including heart problems, early onset arthritis, chronic pain, conditions such as Lupus, MS, Syringomyelia, visual and hearing impairments, bronchial issues, and a compromised immune system, to name just a few.

The introduction of PMCs for all those affected would go a long way in aiding families by providing improved access to transportation for hospital and doctor visits, granting individuals a modicum of independence necessary to maintain their spirits.

The current criteria for obtaining a Primary Medical Certificate is archaic and no longer applicable to the myriad of complex disabilities diagnosed on a daily and weekly basis. A Primary Medical Certificate should be a top priority, not an arduous and exasperating process.

We must recognise that individuals with disabilities deserve our unwavering support and assistance. They should not be treated as second-class citizens but should receive the necessary support to help them navigate each day with reduced pain and improved quality of life. A Primary Medical Certificate is a vital document that confirms severe and permanent disability.

An Roinn Seirbhíse Corparáideach
Stiúirtheacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhíse 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

The existing criteria, defined in the Finance Act 2020, no longer suffice. We must advocate for a radical overhaul of the Finance Act in 2024 to adapt to the evolving needs of individuals with disabilities.

Our government must actively champion the rights of people with disabilities and provide more than mere table scraps in terms of support and recognition. It is crucial that we facilitate the application process for a Primary Medical Certificate through Local Health Offices.

In conclusion, let us unite in our resolve to make a difference in the lives of individuals with physical disabilities by pushing for the introduction of Primary Medical Certificates. Let us demonstrate our commitment to equality, compassion, and progress for all members of our society.”

The Council would appreciate a reply in due course.

Yours sincerely,



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

From: Minister of State Butler
Sent: Monday 13 November 2023 09:50
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HEA-MoSB-01361-2023

HEA-MoSB-01361-2023
13 November 2023

Ms Laura Flannery
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Merchant's Quay
Limerick
V94 EH90

Dear Ms Flannery,

I want to thank you for your correspondence dated 27 September regarding continued supports for the nursing home sector, the contents of which have been noted and passed on to officials within the Department of Health for their consideration.

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme - (NHSS) or Fair Deal - was designed to protect and support vulnerable older people, to ensure equal access to nursing home care based on what they could afford. This gives certainty to people and their families.

Government funding for Fair Deal is to support vulnerable older people at a time in their lives where full-time care is essential.

In 2019, the NHSS budget was €985.8m. Year-on-year the budget has increased: in 2023 I secured a funding increase of €40 million for the NHSS, and for 2024 a further increase of €35.6 million. A further €10 million has been secured to assist nursing homes to comply with Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) regulations.

Overall, €1.4 billion of the total Health Budget was allocated last year to support over 22,700 people under Fair Deal. This will increase to nearly €1.5 billion for 2023, and I am cognisant that the budget must support all residents under the NHSS for the full calendar year.

This additional funding is allowing an increase in rates by the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) of 5-6% on average per Negotiation of Deeds.

It is also recognised that the duration of contracts have shortened and that this increase in funding will go toward continuing to help nursing homes with inflationary costs in 2024.

The provision of free PPE and oxygen to private and voluntary nursing homes also continues, and has cost over €77 million to date.

In the weeks prior to Budget 2024 I held a roundtable discussion with private nursing home provider representative groups where the issue of continued support for the sector was on the agenda. I will continue to engage with them going forward.

It should also be noted that the Department of Health and I have regular interaction with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) and have met them to discuss ways to support the sector, where necessary and appropriate, to complement the normal process of negotiating rate increases when contracts are renewed.

The NTPF are the body designated, under Section 40 of the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009, to negotiate with persons carrying on the business of a nursing home, for the purposes of reaching an agreement on the maximum prices to be charged for nursing home care, and are based on the NTPF's cost criteria. These criteria include costs reasonably incurred by the nursing home, local market prices, historic prices and overall budgetary capacity.

The NTPF carries out this role independently under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009. The NTPF has statutory independence, and there is no role for Ministers or the Department of Health in these negotiations which are conducted and agreed between individual nursing home providers and the NTPF.

The Department of Health published a review of the NTPF pricing system in June 2021 and continues to work on bringing forward the recommendations that emerged from this review. A steering group has been established to oversee the delivery of the recommendations; this group has met on a regular basis since publication of the review.

There is no other mechanism for funding from the public purse for nursing home residents outside of the Nursing Homes Support Scheme. It is imperative that private and voluntary providers continue to engage in the process as set out in the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009.

A short-term extension to the Temporary Inflation Payment Scheme (TIPS), introduced last year to help with increased energy costs due to inflation, is currently under review.

I hope this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Butler TD
Minister for Mental Health and Older People