

CORRESPONDENCE

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

15TH JANUARY, 2024

- Letter dated 30th November, 2023 from the Office of the Minister for Justice in reply to Notice of Motion from Members to write to the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee and ask that she remove disbanding community policing from the Garda Commissioners working hours plan.
- Email dated 12th December, 2023 from the Office of the Minister for Transport in reply to Notice of Motion from Members regarding road closure notices for events and amending the legislation on the obligation to advertise road closures in newspapers.
- Email dated 19th December, 2023 from the Office of the Minister for Education in reply to the following Notice of Motion from Members:

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to and ask Education Minister Norma Foley TD:

(a) to provide an update on the continued delays for Monaleen N.S. and

(b) to ask the Department of Education to approve the Stage 2b Report which they have had on their desks since December last year, so that LCETB can proceed to tender for the appointment of the contractor and begin the school's construction.

- Email dated 29th December, 2023 from the Office of the Minister for Education in reply to Notice of Motion from Members to write to the relevant Minister to request that pre-school properties that wish to open also as afterschool services be retained as valid buildings for commercial rates exemption under Schedule 4 of The Valuation Act 2001, as amended by the Valuation (Amendment) Act 2015, to incentivise childhood education buildings to open beyond pre-school hours.



Mr. Mark Leahy
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick
V94 EH90



30 November 2023

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-09581-2023



Dear Mr. Leahy,

Thank you for your letter of 26 October to the Minister for Justice, Ms Helen McEntee TD. I am responding on the Minister's behalf.

As you may be aware, the Garda Commissioner is responsible for the management and administration of Garda business under Section 26 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 (as amended), which includes all operational policing decisions. Under Section 33 of the Act, the Commissioner determines the distribution and stationing of the Garda Síochána throughout the State, in line with the Annual Policing Plan approved by the independent Policing Authority under Section 22 of the Act.

The Minister has no role in determining the duties assigned to individual Garda members and is unable to seek to direct, intervene with, or otherwise influence the Commissioner in these matters. The distribution of resources is a matter for the Divisional Chief Superintendent, with regard to crime trends, population/demographic changes and other factors.

The Minister is advised by Garda management that no established units were considered for disbandment under the proposed reversion to the 'Westmanstown' roster and no consideration is being given at present. It should be noted that the reversion to the 'Westmanstown' roster is not proceeding as Garda management and representative associations are due to hold talks on a new roster agreement.



Your query may be more appropriate to the Commissioner.

Commissioner's Office,
Garda Headquarters,
Phoenix Park,
Dublin 08,
D08 HN3

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma McHugh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Emma McHugh
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice

Please note that if the issue raised in your correspondence is deemed more appropriate to another organisation, such as another Government Department or Agency, your correspondence will be forwarded to that organisation for attention in accordance with the provisions of the Department of Justice Privacy Statement, which can be accessed on our website here: <https://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/DOJ-Privacy-Notice-2022.pdf/Files/DOJ-Privacy-Notice-2022.pdf>.

Carroll, Siobhan

From: Ministers Office <Minister-Transport@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 12 December 2023 09:14
To: Metro Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: TTAS-MO-08372-2023

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Our Ref: TTAS-MO-08372-2023

Dear Mr. Leahy,

On behalf of the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, T.D., I wish to

thank you for your email regarding road closure advertisements. A further reply will issue to you as soon as possible.

With best wishes,

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Amanda Corley

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Private Secretary to Minister Ryan

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The Minister is a Designated Public

Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available onÂ www.lobbying.ie)

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An Roinn Iompair

Department of Transport

LÁina Liosain, Baile Á tha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

www.gov.ie/transport

From: Correspondence Unit <education-correspondenceunit@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:26 AM
To: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]DES-CU-04924-2023

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Mr. Mark Leahy
Corporate Services, Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchants Quay.
customerservices@limerick.ie

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Ref: DES-CU-04924-2023

19th December 2023.

Dear Mr. Leahy,

I refer to your recent email to the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley TD, regarding Monaleen National School.

The project referred to, has been devolved for delivery to Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB).

Following receipt of a detailed design and planning Stage 2b report from LCETB for this project, the Department upon review, recommended important enhancements to the project which related principally to the proposed decarbonisation strategy and project phasing requirements for the school.

The Department understands from the latest progress reports submitted by the ETB, that the design team are currently still implementing these recommendations. When finalised, LCETB will submit the revised stage 2b report including the updated cost plan requested, to the Department. Once this information is received, reviewed and approved, the project will then move onward to Tender and Construction in due course.

I trust that this clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely

Stephen O'Brien
Private Secretary.

From: Correspondence Unit <education-correspondenceunit@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 29 December 2023 14:35
To: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]DES-CU-04913-2023

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Mr. Mark Leahy
Corporate Services, Limerick City and County Council, Corporate Headquarters, Merchants Quay
customerservices@limerick.ie

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Ref: DES-CU-04913-2023

Dear Mr. Leahy

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley TD in relation to seeking permission for pre-school properties to open after school services.

In reply, and with respect to the position of the Department of Education regarding the use of school property, please note that decisions on the use of school facilities lie with the relevant school authority in consultation with the property owner and priority has to be given to the interests of the school, teachers and pupils.

The Department's policy is to encourage the use of school facilities, where possible, for community, training and education related activities. The Department would encourage schools to facilitate requests wherever possible but on the basis that it would not impede the school's capacity to provide for education, which is the main use of the school property.

To assist schools in considering applications for use of their facilities the Department in consultation with representatives of schools has a set of general Guidelines on the use of school property outside of school hours. This is available on the Department's website at:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/guidelines-on-the-use-of-school-buildings-outside-of-school-hours.pdf>

I trust this information is useful.

Yours sincerely

Stephen O'Brien
Private Secretary.