

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **May 2024 Council Meeting**

- Letter received on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Rural Development Directorate, Clare County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to Community Employment Schemes (CES), Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and Tús Programme.
- Letter received on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Corporate Services, Westmeath County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council supporting the IFA 'Enough is Enough' campaign.
- Email received on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting a full and up-to-date report from the Minister for Health regarding wind turbines on the following issues: (a) likely health effects on adjacent residents; (b) noise levels; (c) shadow flicker; (d) damage to residential amenity.
- Email received on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for a commitment from Government for a minimum of €91m extra in funding for University Hospital Limerick (UHL) to bring staffing up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; noting that UHL is consistently the most overcrowded Emergency Department in the country; and calling for (a) the allocation of €91m in extra funding for staffing and services to bring UHL up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; and (b) the creation of a Taskforce, led by the Taoiseach, that includes the HSE, Department of Health and Local Hospital Management to address the deficits in care and services.
- Emails received on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting an update on the status of the HSE home birth service in Limerick.
- Letter received on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for a commitment from Government for a minimum of €91m extra in funding for University Hospital Limerick (UHL) to bring staffing up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; noting that UHL is consistently the most

overcrowded Emergency Department in the country; and calling for (a) the allocation of €91m in extra funding for staffing and services to bring UHL up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; and (b) the creation of a Taskforce, led by the Taoiseach, to include the HSE, Department of Health and Local Hospital Management to address the deficits in care and services.

- Letter received on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Health Service Executive, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting an update on the status of the HSE home birth service in Limerick.
- Letter received on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Health Service Executive, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for a commitment from Government for a minimum of €91m extra in funding for University Hospital Limerick (UHL) to bring staffing up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; noting that UHL is consistently the most overcrowded Emergency Department in the country; and calling for (a) the allocation of €91m in extra funding for staffing and services to bring UHL up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; and (b) the creation of a Taskforce, led by the Taoiseach, to include the HSE, Department of Health and Local Hospital Management to address the deficits in care and services.
- Further Email received on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for a commitment from Government for a minimum of €91m extra in funding for University Hospital Limerick (UHL) to bring staffing up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; noting that UHL is consistently the most overcrowded Emergency Department in the country; and calling for (a) the allocation of €91m in extra funding for staffing and services to bring UHL up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; and (b) the creation of a Taskforce, led by the Taoiseach, to include the HSE, Department of Health and Local Hospital Management to address the deficits in care and services.
- Letter received on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Louth County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council re-affirming its support for the Good Friday Agreement.
- Letter received on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, from Professor Colette Cowan, Chief Executive Officer, UL Hospitals Group, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting an update on the status of the HSE home birth service in Limerick.
- Email received on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, from the Department of People, Corporate and Digital Services, Fingal County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council backing the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

- Letter received on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, from the Corporate Services Department, Rural Development Directorate, Clare County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to health services.
  - Letter received on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, from Senator Robbie Gallagher.
  - Letter received on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Monaghan County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the Free Education Scheme.
  - Letters received on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, from the Regional Executive Officer, HSE Mid-West, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for a commitment from Government for a minimum of €91m extra in funding for University Hospital Limerick (UHL) to bring staffing up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; noting that UHL is consistently the most overcrowded Emergency Department in the country; and calling for (a) the allocation of €91m in extra funding for staffing and services to bring UHL up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital; and (b) the creation of a Taskforce, led by the Taoiseach, to include the HSE, Department of Health and Local Hospital Management to address the deficits in care and services.
  - Letter received on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Wicklow County Council, outlining correspondence sent by Wicklow County Council to the Minister for Transport in relation to road fatalities/Road Safety Officer.
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COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

13<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

**Our Ref: March24 - 31/AR/AC**

Dear Meeting Administrator,

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

"I propose that Clare County Council requests Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys, to consider and implement a policy change that allows participants in Community Employment Schemes (CES), Rural Social Scheme (RSS), and Tús Programme to continue their valuable contributions until the age of 70. This extension would not only acknowledge the dedication and skills of these individuals but also contribute to the overall well-being of our community and enhance the sustainability of these programs. These programmes play a crucial role in fostering community development, providing essential services, and supporting those who may face challenges in securing traditional employment. Currently, participants in these valuable community-based employment programs are required to retire at the age of 66 and considering the changing demographics and the desire of individuals to remain actively engaged in work programmes, I am asking you to make this important change to allow participants the opportunity to continue to contribute to their local communities."

Yours sincerely,

**Ann Reynolds,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services Department,  
Rural Development Directorate.**

**An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach  
Stiúirtheacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí 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

02 April 2024

**To: All Local Authorities**

**Re: Resolution from the Members of Westmeath County Council**

A Chara,

At the recent meeting of Westmeath County Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the following resolution was passed, with cross-party support for the motion, and it was agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities for your attention:

***"That Westmeath County Council supports the IFA 'enough is enough' campaign, recognises the significant contribution that farming, and the Agri-sector make to the Irish and local economy and the farmers contribution to date on climate mitigation measures, and acknowledges the income challenge on Irish farmers arising from the significant increases in the cost of doing business, regulatory costs and cuts in Basic Income supports for farmers.***

***The Council calls on the Government to introduce no further regulations on farmers or any measures that may increase costs on farms without full negotiation and agreement with the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) and that the council calls on the EU and the Government to provide additional standalone funding, separate to the Common Agricultural Policy, to support farmers in undertaking climate action and biodiversity measures. Furthermore, the Council calls on the Government to introduce a Land Regulatory Authority to assist and protect the farming community."***

I would be grateful if you would bring the contents of this letter to the Elected Members at the next meeting of the Local Authority.

Mise le meas,



Mary Goldsberry  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services  
0449332247  
0879441856  
[maryg@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:maryg@westmeathcoco.ie)

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**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:55 AM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-01907-2024

3rd April 2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence regarding wind turbines.

This matter is more appropriate to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Please contact that Department at [minister.ryan@decc.gov.ie](mailto:minister.ryan@decc.gov.ie)

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan Flynn

Private Secretary

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**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 9:33 AM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-01895-2024

HEA-MO-01895-2024

3rd April 2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 26th of March 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan Flynn

Private Secretary

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**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:48 AM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-01906-2024

3rd April 2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence regarding home births in Limerick.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan Flynn

Private Secretary



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**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Monday 8 April 2024 15:04  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-01906-2024

HEA-MO-01906-2024

8th April 2024

Dear  
Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly T.D., thank you for your correspondence regarding the provision of home birth services in Limerick. I would like to inform you that the contents of your correspondence have been duly noted.

On 7th June 2022, the HSE advised the Department of Health through the Patient Safety Communications Protocol of the tragic death of a mother in the Midwest, following a home birth. This incident is being managed in line with the HSE's Incident Management Policy.

An external review has been commissioned of the home birth service in the Midwest. This review is looking into patient safety, clinical governance, and any other issues arising. Following this incident, the HSE advised the Department that the University of Limerick Hospital Group temporarily suspended the home birth services in the Midwest.

Within the public health service, when an incident occurs, it is important that the health service where the incident occurred is responsible for ensuring that it is appropriately investigated. This is so that the service can learn and improve services in the future.

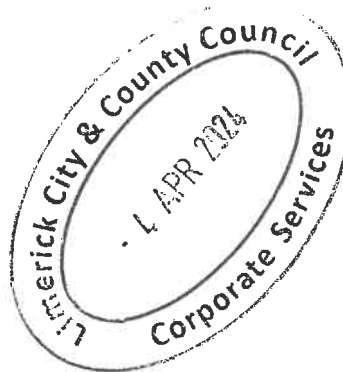
The Department of Health is continuing to engage with the HSE in relation to progress on this matter.

As the HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme leads on the management, organisation and delivery of maternity, gynaecological and neonatal services, I have asked the HSE to respond to you directly in relation to the issues raised, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

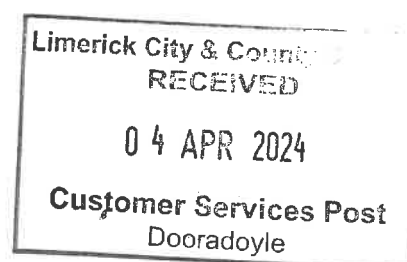
Eoghan Flynn

Private Secretary to the Minister for Health



2 April 2024

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



Reference Number: DOT-TV-06572-2024

Dear Ms Flannery

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D., dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

A copy of your correspondence has been forwarded to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, 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)



**Príomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Urlár 1, Ospidéal an Dr Steevens'  
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

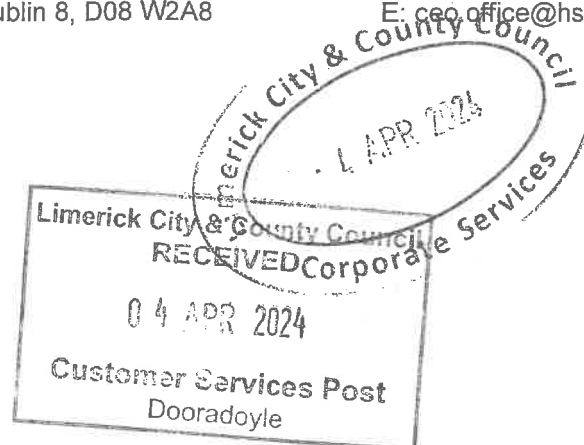
**Chief Executive Officer**  
Health Service Executive  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Dr Steevens' Hospital  
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

**www.hse.ie**  
**@hselive**  
T: 01 635 2000  
E: [ceo.office@hse.ie](mailto:ceo.office@hse.ie)

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

**CEO Ref: 11137**

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



**Subject: Resolution Adopted at Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - HSE Birth Service in Limerick**

Dear Ms Flannery,

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to Mr Bernard Gloster, CEO.

I wish to confirm that your correspondence has been referred to the HSE Parliamentary Affairs Division for their attention and processing through to the relevant management in the appropriate HSE section who will in turn issue a response directly to you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

**Suzanne Hannigan**  
Office of the Chief Executive Officer



**Príomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Urlár 1, Ospidéal an Dr Steevens'  
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

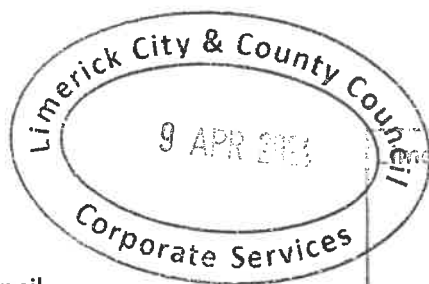
**Chief Executive Officer**  
Health Service Executive  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Dr Steevens' Hospital  
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

**www.hse.ie**  
**@hselive**  
T: 01 635 2000  
E: ceo.office@hse.ie

8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**CEO Ref: 11135**

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



**Subject: Resolution Adopted at Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Funding for UHL**

Dear Ms Flannery,

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to Mr Bernard Gloster, CEO.

I wish to confirm that your correspondence has been referred to the HSE Parliamentary Affairs Division for their attention and processing through to the relevant management in the appropriate HSE section who will in turn issue a response directly to you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

**Suzanne Hannigan**  
Office of the Chief Executive Officer

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**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Thursday 18 April 2024 08:43  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-01895-2024

HEA-MO-01895-2024

18th April 2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., thank you for your recent correspondence on behalf of Limerick City and County Council regarding the funding and staffing of University Hospital Limerick (UHL).

I would like to reassure you that the Government remains fully committed to improving services in Limerick and the Mid-West region. The Minister has engaged extensively with the University of Limerick Hospitals Group (ULHG) and the HSE regarding the challenges being experienced, particularly in UHL, which the Minister visited on 4 April last. Following the visit, the Minister announced a series of measures agreed with the HSE to help alleviate the problems in University Hospital Limerick which are detailed below:

- A procurement process has been initiated for the operation of the new 50 bed Community Nursing Unit in Nenagh as a step down sub-acute and rehabilitation facility for this hospital for one year until the first 96 bed block is opened in 2025.
- The Minister has mandated that all steps are taken to accelerate the second 96 bed block to be built here at UHL, having sanctioned enabling works for that project last year. Those works have begun.
- A further 20 permanent step-down transition & rehab beds will be procured in Clare.
- 16 additional fast build beds are to be commissioned onsite with this capacity to be available in advance of next winter's surge.
- The opening hours of the region's three Acute Medical Assessment Units at Nenagh, Ennis and St John's are to be extended to 24/7 on a phased basis.
- Safe staffing will be extended to all wards in UHL as per the national rollout.
- UHL is to be one of two national test sites for Acute Virtual Wards.
- UHL will provide GP and Advanced Nurse Practitioner-on-the-door services for the ED in an effort to alleviate overcrowding and allow the ED staff to treat urgent and emergency patients in a more timely manner.

These new measures come on top of a 41% increase in staff at UHL since 2019 with 3,950 whole time equivalent (WTE) employed at UHL as of January this year. The budget allocation for this hospital has increased by 44% from €265 million 2019 to €383 million in 2023.

In addition, 150 new beds have been funded across the ULHG since January 2020, 108 of which are in UHL, including:

- 60 bed modular ward block at UHL
- 38 beds at UHL, as part of two separate rapid-build projects in response to Covid 19
- 10 critical care beds opened in UHL as part of the Strategic Plan for Critical Care
- 3 additional beds in Nenagh Hospital
- 24 beds opened at Croom Orthopaedic Hospital
- 15 bed clinical recovery and support unit in St. John's

Other significant developments include:

- Work commenced on a 96-bed ward block at UHL in September 2022. It is anticipated that construction will be completed in Q1 2025, and this bed capacity will be operational in mid-2025. The HSE has advised that this block will add an additional 71 new acute beds to UHL, with the remaining 25 earmarked to replace beds from nightingale wards that require replacement and refurbishment in line with regulatory requirements.
- Works have also commenced on a second 96-bed block, with excavation having commenced on the site. The construction phase will be completed in two stages, carried out directly adjacent to the first block.
- An application has been lodged with Limerick City and County Council for a proposed surgical hub at Scoil Carmel in Limerick. Surgical hubs improve access for surgical patients and reduce waiting lists. The planning application provides for two new operating theatres and two procedure rooms.
- Investment has also been placed into alternative pre-hospital pathways, to support patients to be seen outside of the Emergency Department where appropriate.
- The Minister opened a €2m purpose-built Injury Unit at Ennis Hospital in 2022.
- Ennis, Nenagh and St John's (the Model 2 Hospitals in the region) are playing a pivotal role in delivering high-quality patient care in the Mid-West and are accepting transfers of appropriate patients from UHL on a daily basis. Further funding was allocated in 2023 to extend the hours of Medical Assessment Units in these three hospitals to operated 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. These Units help address Emergency Department avoidance and ensure appropriate community referrals.
- As of August 2023, Ennis, Nenagh and St John's hospitals also accept 112/999 patients. This means that patients who meet agreed clinical criteria can be transferred by ambulance and treated in these hospitals. This will reduce the number of people presenting at Emergency Departments. It will also release ambulances more quickly to serve other calls.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan Flynn

Private Secretary to the Minister for Health



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

18<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

TO/EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

A Chara,

I write to inform you that the Elected Members of Louth County Council at a Special Meeting of Council in April adopted the following resolution: -

**Notice of Motion - Cllr Conor Keelan**  
**Seconded by - Cllr John Sheridan**

*"That this Council reaffirms its support to the Good Friday Agreement as voted in by the elected suffrage of men and women in an All-Ireland vote held in 1998 which paved the way for changes in Bunreacht na hÉireann to the constitutional status of this island, the re-establishment of Power-Sharing in Stormont, albeit for the first time, the creation of Cross-Border Bodies and recognition of Rialtas Na hÉireann as a co-guarantour of the Good Friday Agreement.*

*That this motion be sent to each local authority, each local authority with a partnership/SLA with a cross-border county council area in the Ulster region and partnership organisations such as EBR and the North-South Ministerial Council for comment."*

It was agreed to circulate this Motion as submitted to all other Local Authorities.

Is mise le meas,

Gráinne Tuomey  
Meetings Administrator

Comhairle Contae Lú  
Halla an Chontae  
Ionad na Mílaoise  
Dún Dealgan  
Contae Lú  
A91 KFW6

Louth County Council  
County Hall  
Millennium Centre  
Dundalk  
County Louth  
A91 KFW6

T + 353 42 9335457  
E info@louthcoco.ie  
W www.louthcoco.ie

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras Gaeilge - Correspondence in Irish is welcome  
Féach foláirimh faoi Lú ón gComhairle ag [www.mapalserter.ie/Louth](http://www.mapalserter.ie/Louth)  
View Council alerts for Louth at [www.mapalserter.ie/Louth](http://www.mapalserter.ie/Louth)

CC/LF/MC

Email: [pgmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pgmidwestacute@hse.ie)22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024

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

**RE: REPDR/24/02082: Homebirth service in Limerick**

Dear Ms Flannery,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the resolution passed by members of Limerick City and County Council in relation to the Mid West homebirth service.

The Home Birth service in the Mid West has been suspended since June 2022 pending the outcome of an external review, which is ongoing. Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidelines on Home Births are available on the HSE website. See the following link for information:

<https://www2.hse.ie/pregnancy-birth/pregnancy-care/home-births/>  
<https://www2.hse.ie/pregnancy-birth/pregnancy-care/home-births/>

A decision on when the pause in the home birth service in the Mid West will be lifted will be taken following receipt of the external review and consideration of any recommendations therein. We regret this disruption in service to women and their families. Unfortunately, we are at present unable to give a precise timeline as to when this review will be complete.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Colette Cowan**  
Chief Executive Officer  
UL Hospitals Group



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**Subject:**

Statutory Motion - May Council Meeting Fingal County Council

**From:** Corporate Services, Fingal County Council

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 1:18 PM

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Non-Statutory Motion - May Council Meeting Fingal County Council

Dear All

I wish to advise you that at a meeting of Fingal County Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, the attached Motion was PASSED by the Members.

With kind regards

**Pauline Dempsey**

Staff Officer | Department of People, Corporate & Digital Services | Fingal County Council | County Hall | Swords | Co. Dublin  
Tel: 087 3913211 E:[pauline.dempsey@fingal.ie](mailto:pauline.dempsey@fingal.ie)

**Comhairle Contae**  
**Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County  
Council



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

**ITEM NO. 46**

**FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY**

**Motion: Councillor D. Mulligan**

"That Fingal 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 Authorities, An Taoiseach, An Tánaiste and the Minister for the Environment."

**Report:**

If this motion is passed, the terms therein will be forwarded to all Local Authorities, An Taoiseach, An Tánaiste and the Minister for the Environment and when a reply is received the Members will be informed.

**Source of Report**

Mary Egan, Director of People, Corporate & Digital Services



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

14<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.

**Our Ref: May24 - 24/AR/AC**

Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

**"I am calling on the Taoiseach of the day Simon Harris and the coalition partners Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Green Party to address the huge failures in the reconfigured health services established by the Government some years ago and the establishment of the HSE for responsibility in implementing the policy.**

**Health services for the public in Ireland has been led by Health Ministers from Fianna Fail, Progressive Democrats and Fine Gael for over 24 years and the current model of reconfiguration has been a failure. Recent reports indicated that rural parts of Ireland have been impacted the most and have a higher risk of poor outcomes and this is borne out by the experience of people from Clare attending overcrowded emergency departments and at times having tragic outcomes. People in need of health services from Clare are suffering and there is no evidence to suggest that the reconfigured health service has delivered improved outcomes. I am calling on the Government to urgently address the serious consequences for the public in Clare from the current government's model of health care. I would request the circulation of this motion if supported to our Oireachtas Members in Clare and other local authorities."**

Yours sincerely,

**Ann Reynolds,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services Department,  
Rural Development Directorate.**

**An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach  
Stiúrthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí 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**



Senator Robbie

# Gallagher

Government Chief Seanad Whip  
Príomh-Aoire an Rialtais sa Seanad



9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

A chara,

I hope this letter finds you well.

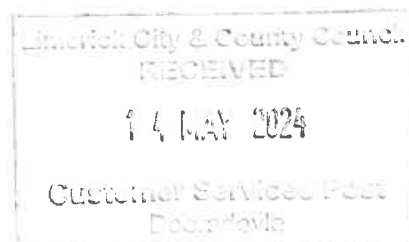
I just wanted to drop a few lines to thank all elected representatives for their work on behalf of local communities around the country over the past five years.

For those seeking re election in the coming weeks, I wish you every success and for those who are not running, thank you for your service and best wishes for the future.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Executive Staff for their help and assistance over the years, it is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Robbie Gallagher



## Senator Robbie Gallagher

### Monaghan Office:

24 Glaslough St,  
Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.

☎ 047 75050

✉ [robbie.gallagher@oireachtas.ie](mailto:robbie.gallagher@oireachtas.ie)

### Seanad Éireann:

Leinster House, Kildare St,  
Dublin 2, Ireland

☎ 086 816 1929





# Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin Monaghan County Council

Our Ref: May 2024/03

15 May 2024

Acmhainní Daonna  
Human Resources  
047 30586

Airgeadas  
Finance  
047 30589

Na Bóithre  
Roads  
047 30597

Clár na dTogthóirí  
Register of Electors  
047 30551

Comhshaol  
Environment  
042 9661240

Na hEalaíona  
Arts  
047 38162

Iasachtaí /Deontais Tithíochta  
Housing Loans/Grants  
047 30527

Leabharlann an Chontae  
County Library  
047 74700

Mótarcháin  
Motor Tax  
047 81175

Músaem an Chontae  
County Museum  
047 82928

Pleanáil  
Planning  
047 30532

Pobal  
Community  
047 73719

Rialú Dóiteáin/Foirgnimh  
Fire/Building Control  
047 30521

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office  
047 71818

Seirbhís Uisce  
Water Services  
047 30504/30571

Private Secretary to  
Ms. Norma Foley, TD  
Minister for Education and Skills,  
Department of Education and Skills,  
Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1.  
D01 RC96

## A Chara

At the May meeting of Monaghan County Council, the members passed the following resolution, and I was directed to forward same to you for attention.

*That Monaghan County council writes to Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., urging that the procurement of materials for the fulfilment of the 'Free Education Scheme' will be at the autonomy of each individual school to tender for their own supplier. For ETB schools to have one centralised supplier it will have an enormous impact on local suppliers who depend on the back-to-school season to keep their doors open.*

I would be grateful if you would bring the contents of this letter to the Minister's attention.

Mise, le meas,

Mary McGarvey  
Meetings Administrator

c.c.: Cavan/Monaghan Oireachtas Members  
c.c.: All Local Authorities

Fáilteann an tUdarás Áitiúil roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge.

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, Oifigí an Chontae, An Gleann, Muineachán, Éire.  
Monaghan County Council, Council Offices, The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland.

☎ 00353 47 30500 📠 00353 47 82738 🌐 [www.monaghan.ie](http://www.monaghan.ie)

✉ [eolas@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:eolas@monaghancoco.ie) [info@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:info@monaghancoco.ie)



Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin  
Réigiúnach

FSS Meán-Iarthair

31/32 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach,  
V94AY27

Office of the Regional Executive  
Officer (REO)

HSE Mid-West

31/32 Catherine Street, Limerick,  
V94AY27

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

T: 061483340

E: [reo.midwest@hse.ie](mailto:reo.midwest@hse.ie)

15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**CEO Ref: 11135**

Ms. Laura Flannery  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services  
Limerick City & County Council  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick

**Your ref: - REPDR/24/02187: Additional Funding and Resources**

Dear Laura,

I write to you in relation to your letter dated the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, regarding confirmation of the adoption of a resolution passed by members of Limerick City and Council in respect of additional funding and resources for the Mid-West Region.

Mr. Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health, recently announced significant additional in-year investment as part of a package of support for University Hospital Limerick (UHL). This investment represents a further €160m in capital funding and €79m recurring revenue funding. Please see below detail on the additional measures announced:

- The extension of Safer Staffing to all wards in UHL. Approval is in place to enable the immediate progression of recruitment campaigns for staffing requirements to facilitate the opening of these beds.
- Change in bed profile for the first 98 bed block providing for an increase in the number of additional beds from 48 to 71 with a plan for operational delivery mid-2025. Approval is in place to enable the immediate progression of recruitment campaigns for staffing requirements to facilitate the opening of these beds.
- Provision of an additional 20 Community Rehabilitation beds for the Clare Area and 50 beds for the Nenagh Area to provide for interim step-down care pending the opening of the first 96 bed block.
- Extension of opening hours to 24/7 of the three regional Medical



- Assessment Units at Nenagh, Ennis and St. John Hospitals on a phased basis
- GP and Advanced Nurse Practitioner on the door services for the ED, in an effort to alleviate overcrowding and allow the ED staff to treat urgent and emergency patients in a timelier manner. This has already commenced.
- Provision of social inclusion integrated hospital to community team to support demographic and social challenges and further alleviate acute hospital pressures.
- Provision of a CAMHS Paediatrics Liaison Team to provide in reach to the paediatric wards to support children with mental health needs.
- Recruitment of an additional 31 WTEs to further support the ECC Programme in the region and support older people and people with chronic diseases to be cared for in their own communities.

The HSE Mid-West has already commenced the implementation of these additional measures and a Programme Improvement Board comprising of senior executive and clinical leadership across the Mid-West Region and HSE National System has been established to provide governance and oversight in respect of the implementation of all initiatives in a timely manner.

In addition, the CEO of the HSE has asked all the recently appointed Regional Executive Officers (REOs), including myself to look at health and social care services in their respective regions to ensure we optimize for the future the services provided to communities. We will shortly commence this work.

The Minister for Health and the CEO of the HSE in recent days announced the implementation of a National HSE Support team to help address the current pressures on health services in the Mid-West region.

The team will begin work immediately to devise several actions designed to ease overcrowding and pressures in the Emergency Department at UHL.

The team is made up of:

- Ms Grace Rothwell, National Director



- Ms. Orla Kavanagh, Director of Nursing & Integration at Waterford University Hospital
- Dr Fergal Hickey, Retired Emergency Medicine Consultant

Finally, the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly is to initiate a review into urgent and emergency care capacity in the Mid-West region to determine whether a second Emergency Department (ED) is required. EDs are part of larger hospitals (known as Model 3's / Model 4's). The review will consider the case for a second Emergency Department for the region, considering the large increase in the population in recent years and ongoing pressures at the ED at UHL.

I trust this clarifies the position; please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sandra Broderick'. The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

---

**Sandra Broderick**  
Regional Executive Officer, HSE Mid-West





Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin  
Réigiúnach  
FSS Meán-Iarthair  
31/32 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach,  
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HSE Mid-West  
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**Ms. Laura Flannery**  
**Meetings Administrator**  
**Corporate Services**  
**Limerick City & County Council**  
**Merchants Quay**  
**Limerick**

**Re: REPDR/24/02187: additional Funding and Resources**

Dear Laura

I write to you in relation to your letter dated the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, to Mr. Bernard Gloster, CEO HSE in relation to confirmation of the adoption of a resolution passed by members of Limerick City and Council in relation to additional funding and resources for the Mid West Region.

Mr. Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health recently announced significant additional in-year investment as part of a package of support for University Hospital Limerick (UHL). This investment represents an additional €160m in capital funding and €79m recurring revenue funding. Please see below detail on the additional measures announced:

- The extension of Safer Staffing to all wards in UHL Approval is in place to enable the immediate progression of recruitment campaigns for staffing requirements to facilitate the opening of these beds.
- Change in bed profile for the first 98 bed block providing for an increase in the number of additional beds from 48 to 71 with a plan for operational delivery mid-2025. Approval is in place to enable the immediate progression of recruitment campaigns for staffing requirements to facilitate the opening of these beds.
- Provision of an additional 20 Community Rehabilitation beds for the Clare Area and 50 beds for the Nenagh Area to provide for interim step-down care pending the opening of the first 96 bed block.
- Extension of opening hours to 24/7 of the three regional Medical Assessment Units at Nenagh, Ennis and St. John Hospitals on a phased basis
- GP and Advanced Nurse Practitioner -on-the- door services for the ED In an effort to alleviate overcrowding and allow the ED staff to treat urgent and emergency patients in a timelier manner which has already commenced.
- Provision of social inclusion integrated hospital to community team to support demographic and social challenges and further alleviate acute hospital pressures.
- Provision of a CAMHS Paediatrics Liaison Team to provide in reach to the paediatric wards to support children with mental health needs.
- Recruitment of an additional 31 WTEs to further support the ECC Programme in the region and support older people and people with chronic diseases to be cared for in their own communities.



The HSE Mid West has already commenced the implementation of these additional measures and a Programme Improvement Board comprising of senior executive and clinical leadership across the Mid-West Region and HSE National System has been established to provide governance and oversight in respect of the implementation of all initiatives in a timely manner.

In addition, the CEO of the HSE has asked all the recently appointed Regional Executive Officers, including Sandra Broderick, REO Mid West to look at health and social care services in their respective regions to ensure we optimize for the future the services provided to communities. The REOs will shortly be doing this work.

The Minister for Health and the CEO of the HSE in recent days announced the implementation of a national HSE Support team to help address the current pressures on health services in the mid West region.

The team will begin work immediately to devise several actions designed to ease overcrowding and pressures in the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick.

The team is made up of:

- Ms Grace Rothwell, National Director
- Ms. Orla Kavanagh Director of Nursing & Integration at Waterford University Hospital
- Retired Emergency Medicine Consultant Dr Fergal Hickey

Finally, the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly is to initiate a review into urgent and emergency care capacity in the Mid West region to determine whether a second Emergency Department (ED) is required. EDs are part of larger hospitals (known as Model 3's / Model 4's).

The review will consider the case for a second Emergency Department for the region, in light of a big increase in the population in recent years and ongoing pressures at the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick (UHL)

I trust this clarifies the position; please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sandra Broderick'.

**Sandra Broderick**  
**Regional Executive Officer, HSE Mid-West**



# Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council

Forbairt Eagraíochta | AD | Corparáideach  
Organisational Development | HR | Corporate

Áras An Chontae / County Buildings  
Cill Mhantáin / Wicklow  
Guthán / Tel: (0404) 20159  
Faics / Fax: (0404) 20112  
Rphost / Email: corporateservices@wicklowcoco.ie  
Suíomh / Website: www.wicklow.ie

20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Minister Eamonn Ryan T.D.**  
**Department of Environment, Climate Action, Communications & Transport**  
**2 Leeson Street Lower**  
**Dublin 2.**

Dear Minister Ryan,

At the ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May the Elected Members passed the following motion and requested that it be forwarded to your offices for consideration:

*"Due to the very worrying increase in road fatalities throughout the country, this Council demands that the Government provides funding for the employment of a full time Road Safety Officer in every Local Authority in the country.*

*If passed, that this motion be sent to every local authority'.*

Yours sincerely,



**HELEN PURCELL**  
**SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**  
**ENTERPRISE & CORPORATE SERVICES**

