

CORRESPONDENCE

July 2024 Council Meeting

- Letter received on 22nd May, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Tipperary County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to report 'Review of Support for Farmers impacted by Ash Die-Back.'
- Correspondence received on 27th May, 2024, from the Director, Southern Regional Assembly, in relation to the Nomination of Members to the Southern Regional Assembly.
- E-mail received on 5th June, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Transport in reply to correspondence sent to the Department of Transport referring to the ongoing bad weather and the requirements to carry out emergency repair works to road surfaces across Limerick City and County; and seeking emergency funding to help support the funding of repair works to roads in the Local Authority Area affected.
- Email received on 7th June, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Justice in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister to immediately review the Fee Structure that presently applies to the adaptation of Irish Naturalisation.
- Letter received on 11th June, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council asking why Community Welfare Officers are not available in clinics at Intreo Offices.
- Email received on 11th June, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Finance in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister and the Government to allow taxpayers one week where no tax is paid, in line with Social Welfare recipients whereby their welfare payments increase at Christmas.
- Letter received on 13th June, 2024, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister and the Government to allow taxpayers one week where no tax is paid, in line with Social Welfare recipients whereby their welfare payments increase at Christmas.

- Letter received on 13th June, 2024, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council as follows: *(i) "That, this Council recognises the significant contribution that farming, and the Agri-Sector, makes to the Irish and local economy. The Council 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 Support for Farmers; (ii) 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 and other farming organisations. The Council calls on the European Union and the Irish government to provide additional stand-alone funding, separate to the Common Agricultural Policy, to support farmers to undertake climate and biodiversity measures."*
- Correspondence received on 30th May, 2024, from the Office of the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning in reply to resolution adopted by the Council as follows: *"That, Limerick City and County Council request 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."*
- Letter received on 19th June, 2024, from the Department of Social Protection in reply to resolution adopted by the Council asking why Community Welfare Officers are not available in clinics at Intreo Offices.



21st May, 2024

To/ All Local Authorities

Dear Meetings Administrator,

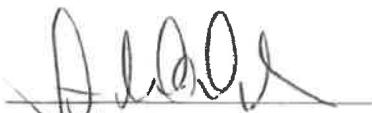
At the May meeting of Tipperary County Council, the members passed the following resolution:

"That Tipperary County Council would write to the Minister for Land use and Biodiversity, Pippa Hackett, asking that she implements in full, without further delay the recommendations of the report titled REVIEW OF SUPPORT FOR FARMERS IMPACTED BY ASH DIEBACK which was compiled by Dr. Matthew Crowe, Jerry Grant and Jo O'Hara.

In June 2023, Dr. Matthew Crowe, Jerry Grant and Jo O'Hara were asked to carry out a rapid review of the DAFM approach and supports for landowners affected by ash dieback since 2013 and to provide the Minister with advice and recommendations on a way forward in line with the draft Forest Strategy. The report was submitted to the Minister last September.

Furthermore, that the letter would be sent to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Taoiseach, Tanaiste, and the Minister for the Environment and that this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities".

Yours sincerely,


Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt

**Southern Regional
Assembly**

Tionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt

Teach an Tionól,
Sráid Uí Chonaill,
Pórl Láirge,
X91 F8PC
Éire.

Southern Regional Assembly
Assembly House,
O'Connell Street,
Waterford,
X91 F8PC
Ireland.

27 Bealtaine 2024

Dr. Pat Daly, Chief Executive
Limerick City and County Council,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick,
V94 EH90

Re: Nomination of Members to the Southern Regional Assembly

A Chara,

In accordance with Article 5 of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1991 (REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES) (ESTABLISHMENT) ORDER 2014 (S.I. No. 573 of 2014), as amended, and Ministerial Directions given thereunder, I wish to advise you that at the first meeting of your new Council, following the Local & Mayoral Elections on the 7th June, 2024, Limerick City & County Council has the responsibility to nominate **4 Members** to become Members of **Southern Regional Assembly**. One of these Members shall be the newly elected Mayor, who shall be an ex officio member of the Southern Regional Assembly.

Diversity is a core value to membership of the Southern Regional Assembly, and to that effect, it is desirable that gender, geography, and inclusivity are taken into consideration through representation to the Assembly.

You will find attached an information leaflet on the Southern Regional Assembly, its role and responsibilities which has been prepared to assist Members considering nomination. The leaflet also includes details of an upcoming online information session for Members, and I would appreciate if you could share this information with your newly elected Members prior to the nomination process.



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Southern Regional

Assembly

Following the nomination process, please forward the name, address, and contact details (mobile number and e-mail address) of each nominee to Ian Ludlow, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs, Southern Regional Assembly at iludlow@southernassembly.ie.

Please revert to me should you require any further clarification.

Le meas,

David Kelly

Director, Southern Regional Assembly

CC: Mark Leahy, Meetings Administrator, Limerick City & County Council



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an Deiscirt
**Southern Regional
Assembly**

Southern Regional Assembly

Understanding the Role and Functions of Regional Governance



Cumann Réigiún na hÉireann
Association of Irish Regions



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistíú ag
an Aontas Eorpaach

Co-funded by the
European Union

The Regional Assemblies of Ireland



Historical Overview

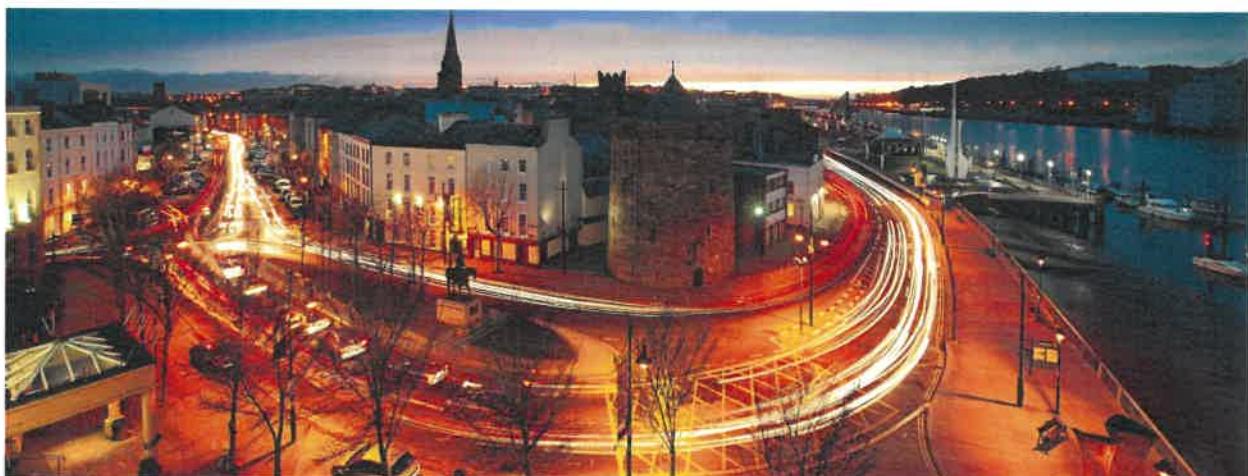
In 2014 the Government undertook a significant reform of the Local Government Act and rationalised the regional level by abolishing the eight Regional Authorities and two existing Regional Assemblies, and replacing them with the following three Regional Assemblies with enhanced responsibilities:

- Southern Regional Assembly (SRA): Southern Region
- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA): Eastern & Midland Region
- Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA): Northern & Western Region

The Southern Region consists of **10 Local Authorities**: Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, and Wexford.

The Eastern & Midland Region consists of **12 Local Authorities**: Longford, Meath, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois, Louth, Kildare, Wicklow, Fingal, South Dublin and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Councils, and Dublin City Council.

The Northern and Western Region consists of **9 Local Authorities**: Galway City & County Council, Roscommon, Leitrim, Sligo, Donegal, Monaghan, Mayo, and Cavan.



Viking Triangle, Waterford City.

What is a Regional Assembly?

- A regional tier of government, consisting of elected representatives nominated by our local authorities and the Committee of the Regions.
- Leading the implementation of the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES).
- Promoting balanced regional development through the management of, support for, and involvement in European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funded programmes and projects.
- Linking local, regional, national and EU policy goals through regional planning and EU regional development.

What are the functions of the Regional Assembly?

The Regional Assembly has responsibilities with a democratic mandate set down under the terms of **Statutory Instrument Number 573 of 2014, the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Assemblies) (Establishment) Order, 2014**.

The formal functions of the Regional Assemblies include:

- The formulation, adoption, and implementation of statutory Regional, Spatial, and Economic Strategies (RSES). These strategies will integrate city and county development plans and Local Economic Community Plans (LECPs).
- Management of EU regional operational programmes, participation in European Territorial Cooperation programmes, supporting the Irish national delegation to the Committee of the Regions, EU project participation, and other EU regional focused actions.
- Facilitation and provision of assistance to local authorities in engaging with EU institutions on matters related to regional, and local development.
- Providing a regional platform through which national, local, and regional public bodies, and other agencies can be coordinated within the context of national policy. Regional Assemblies can also undertake research studies, surveys, or the collection of information, data, or statistics, in relation to any of its functions or on any matter to which the functions of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) apply.

What are the Responsibilities of the Regional Assembly?

The Regional Assemblies must have regard for the general welfare of the region which the order specifies as including:

1. The physical, economic, social, demographic, infrastructural, and environmental situation of the region, its economic and other development potential, and the protection or improvement of its environmental, heritage, amenity, and cultural resources.
2. The programmes, plans, policies, proposals, and objectives of the Government and of any Minister of the Government and of local authorities and other public authorities, as appropriate, and the need to promote coordination of and/ or consistency with them.
3. The resources that are available, or are likely to be available, for the performance of their functions.
4. The specific need for coordinated action to promote effectiveness in local government and public services, to promote consistency with the programmes, plans, policies, proposals, and objectives of the Government or Minister of the Government, and to ensure coherent spatial planning and sustainable development within and between regions.

How do I become a member of the Southern Regional Assembly?

The Southern Regional Assembly's work is overseen currently by **33 elected members, 27 nominated** from the constituent local authorities and currently **six councillors from the Committee of The Regions**, nominated by the Government. In addition, the directly elected Mayor of Limerick will also be an ex-officio member of the SRA following the mayoral elections in Limerick City and County Council in June 2024.

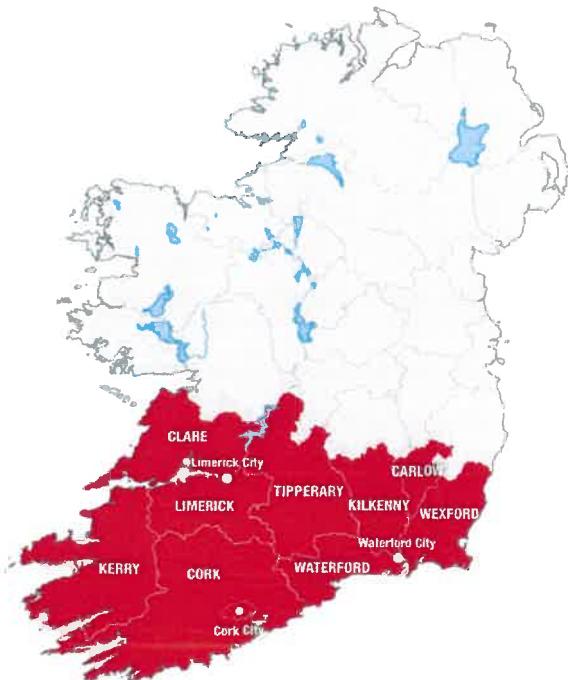
S.I. No. 573/2014 of the Local Government Act 1991 (Regional Assemblies) (Establishment) Order 2014 sets out the procedure for the nomination of Regional Assembly members, by their respective councils, to the Regional Assembly as follows:

"the persons to be appointed by a local authority in accordance with Article 5 to be members of a Regional Assembly shall be appointed at the annual meeting of such local authority held next after every election of the members of such local authority, or so soon thereafter as may be".

In practice the members are decided at the inaugural annual meeting of each of the newly elected council amongst consideration of nominations for a range of other bodies. There will be a range of elected members, some who are experienced and others who will be councillors for the first time.

Southern Regional Assembly

Carlow	2 Members
Clare	2 Members
Cork City	2 Members
Cork County	5 Members
Kerry	3 Members
Kilkenny	2 Members
Limerick	4 Members*
Tipperary	3 Members
Waterford	2 Members
Wexford	3 Members



Current Committee of the Regions - 6 Members

*Including newly elected Mayor



European Committee of the Regions

Established in 1994, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) is an EU advisory body and political assembly of 350 local and regional elected representatives from all EU countries. It advises on new laws that have an impact on regions and meets six times per year, to debate proposed legislation, and agree on resolutions for further action by the EU.

The Committee of the Regions works to bring EU citizens closer to the EU. By involving regional and local representatives who are in daily contact with their electorate's concerns, but also by inviting citizens to participate in various events and debates, the CoR contributes to reducing the gap between the EU institutions' work and EU citizens.



Assembly Members with Deirdre Clune and Billy Kelleher MEPs, 2023.

What are my duties as a member of the Regional Assembly?

S.I. No. 573/2014 of the Local Government Act 1991 (Regional Assemblies) (Establishment) Order 2014 sets out the duties and responsibilities for nominated members of the Regional Assembly.

These duties are as follows:

- Approval of annual accounts and budget
- Adoption of an annual programme of work
- Adoption of a Corporate Plan
- Adoption of an Annual Report
- Attendance at Regional Assembly Meetings, and Committee Meetings (as set up by the Assembly)



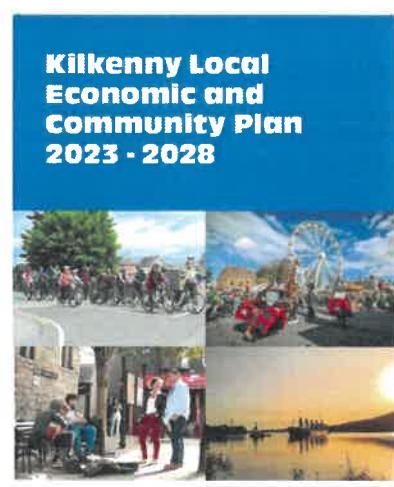
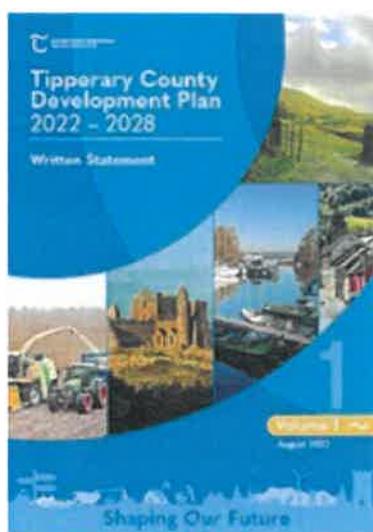
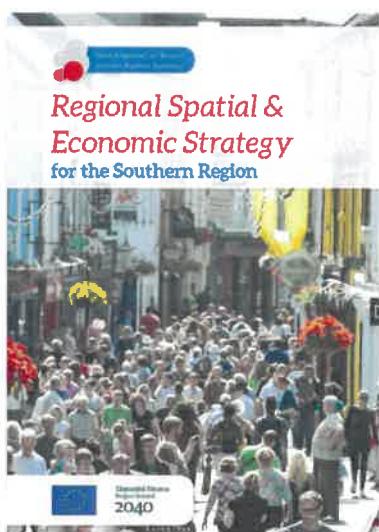
📍 Regional Development Monitor launch, 2022.

Ordinary meetings of the Assembly take place every month (except August), currently on the second Friday of the month. The meetings are held at Assembly HQ in Waterford, with an online attendance option for those who cannot attend in person.

The key statutory functions that Assembly Members are involved with include:

- Preparation of the RSES.
- Observations of draft Development Plans and variations to Development Plans.
- Adoption of a Statement of Alignment with RSES for all Local Economic Community Plans (LECPs).

Participation in these statutory planning processes can be interesting and challenging as members often deal with agreement of regional or cross boundary issues based on national policy, rather than local issues.



The Regional, Spatial, and Economic Strategy (RSES)

The RSES provides the statutory framework for City and County Development Plans in the region and includes:

- A Spatial strategy
- Economic Strategy
- Investment Framework
- Transportation Strategy
- Maritime Strategy
- Climate Action Plan including regional renewable energy strategy
- Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans for Cork, Limerick – Shannon, and Waterford

The review of the RSES is likely to be a key challenge for the new Regional Assembly and will involve members in discussion and decision making in relation to national and regional issues following the review of the National Planning Framework (NPF) later this year.

The RSES is the key mechanism for the Regional Assembly to deliver the programme for change set out in Project Ireland 2040, the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan 2018-2027. Critical to achieving transformative change for a region are:

1. A structural realignment for the overall betterment of our society and environment in population, homes, and jobs away from the greater Dublin area, with a 50:50 distribution of growth between the Eastern and Midlands region, and the Southern, and Northern, and Western regions.
2. The achievement of an additional population in the Southern region of 380,000 people by 2040 bringing the population to almost two million, with an additional 225,000 people in employment (880,000 people in total).
3. A transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society. The RSES encompasses spatial, economic, social, communication, transport, and environmental issues focussing on compact growth, placemaking, responding to the challenge of climate change and resilience. It contains ambitious targets for change across the region impacting on each local authority area.



Since 2015, Ireland is a signatory to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and this is heavily reflected throughout the RSES.

Transformative Regional Assembly Initiatives



Member of
the Global Network
of Learning Cities
www.uil.unesco.org/learning-cities

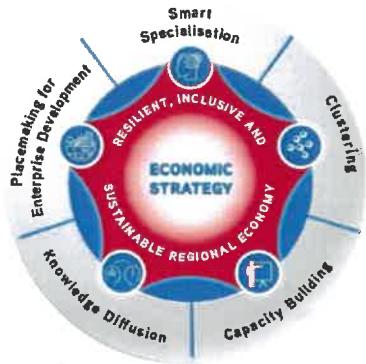
Initiative: Prepare a Learning Region Action Plan and establish Waterford as a UNESCO Learning City.

Progress: In February 2024 Waterford was designated a UNESCO Learning City and has been invited to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.



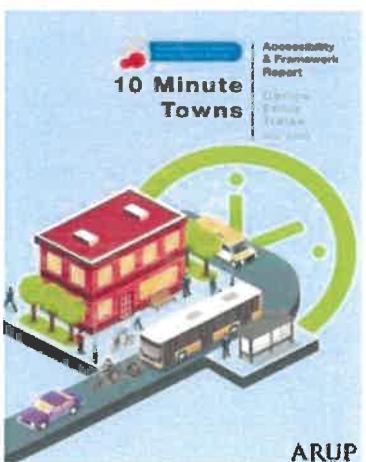
Initiative: Developing Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for placemaking.

Progress: The framework was launched in 2022 and a BGI network of local authorities was established.



Initiative: Develop a framework/toolkit to support a regional approach for a smart specialisation strategy in the Southern Region.

Progress: The SRA worked with Bable consultancy to develop a toolkit for smart specialisation. The SRA worked with Maynooth University in 2022 to finalise a definition for a Smart Southern Region.



Initiative: Regional Sustainable Mobility and 10 Minute Cities & Towns.

Progress: In January 2022 the SRA hosted a regional sustainable mobility webinar for local authorities and transport stakeholders. In October, the Department of Transport approved the initiative as Pathfinder 30. In December 2022 the SRA as the managing authority for Pathfinder 30 requested a tender to design and deliver the programme.

EU Functions and Role of the Regional Assembly

The Regional Assembly acts as Managing Authority for EU Co-funded Regional Programmes and has done so since 2000. It is now on the fourth generation programme which supports a variety of activities in the Southern, Eastern & Midlands regions, including innovation in research, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) supports, low carbon, coronavirus response and sustainable urban development with a mix of national and European Regional Development Funds (ERDF).

The Assembly is also a Programme Partner and Irish Contact Point for a number of European Territorial Co-operation programmes including Interreg North-West Europe and Interreg Europe.



The Regional Assembly participates in a range of EU Projects to support, develop, and deliver better policy for the Southern Region, and to facilitate access to a wealth of knowledge from other EU regions, to develop better policy solutions to common regional challenges and leadership in sustainable economic, social and environmental development to benefit the Southern Region.

The Association of Irish Regions (AIR)



The Association of Irish Regions (AIR) acts as a cohesive representative body for the three Regional Assemblies in Ireland, particularly on matters concerning their role and responsibilities as regional government in Ireland.

It offers collective advice, guidance and makes submissions to the Government, its agencies and EU bodies on behalf of the three Regional Assemblies on matters of regional governance, cooperation, and balance.

It is the fulcrum for knowledge transfer between Regional Assemblies, their members, the Local Authorities, Irish Government, and EU bodies, and agencies.

It comprises the Directors, Cathaoirligh, Leas Cathaoirligh, outgoing Cathaoirligh of the Regional Assemblies, and two other members nominated at the Annual meeting.



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Online Information Session

The Southern Regional Assembly will host an online information session to outline the roles and functions of the Southern Regional Assembly in more depth. This webinar will take place following the election but before the annual meeting of the Local Authority; further details will be circulated through each of the local authorities.



If you have any questions regarding the functions of the Southern Regional Assembly, and are considering becoming a member of the assembly, then please contact us using the email address or phone number provided in the contact details section.

Southern Regional Assembly Contact Details



**Tionól Réigiúnach
an Deiscirt**

**Southern Regional
Assembly**

Assembly HQ : Assembly House, O'Connell Street, Waterford, X91 F8PC

Telephone : 051 860 700

Email : info@southernassembly.ie

Web : www.southernassembly.ie



[Southern Regional Assembly](#)



[Southern Regional Assembly](#)



[@SouthernAssembly](#)



[srassembly](#)

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 11:58 AM
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: TTAS-MO-02802-2024

Our Ref: TTAS-MO-02802-2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, T.D., I wish to thank you for your correspondence regarding road surfaces and road funding dated 28th May. A further reply will issue to you as soon as possible.

With best wishes,

Amanda Corley

Private Secretary to Minister Ryan

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

An Roinn Iompair

Department of Transport

LÃ¡na Liosain, Baile Ã tha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

www.gov.ie/transport

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 2:04 PM
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-05300-2024

Ms. Laura Flannery

Ministerâ€™s Reference: DJE-MO-05300-2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Justice, I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your correspondence dated 30 May 2024, in relation to a review of the fee structure that presently applies to the adaption of Irish Naturalisation, which is currently receiving attention.

Yours sincerely,

Emma McHugh

Private Secretary to the

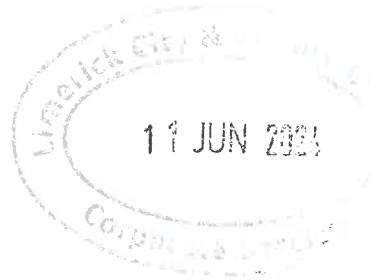
Minister for Justice

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 [here](#).



Case Number: REPS-2024-41997

Laura Flannery
Meetings Administrator
Transport and Mobility Directorate
Limerick City & County Council
Merchants Quay
Limerick



10 June 2024

Dear Ms Flannery,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence to the Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, regarding the May Meeting of Limerick City and County Council requesting why Community Welfare Officers are not available in clinics at Intreo Offices.

Enquiries are being made and a further letter will issue to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Kilkenny
Private Secretary



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

Áras Mhic Dhíarmada, Sráid Srálaí, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 WY03
Áras Mhic Dhíarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1, D01 WY03
minister@welfare.ie | +353 1 704 3000 | www.welfare.ie

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 2:50 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FIN-MO-02249-2024

Our Ref: FIN-MO-02249-2024

Ms. Laura Flannery
Meetings Administrator
Limerick City and County Council
(customerservices@limerick.ie)

Dear Ms. Flannery

The Minister for Finance, Mr Michael McGrath TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence regarding allowing taxpayers one week where no tax is paid and to say that the contents will be considered in the context of the forthcoming Budget.

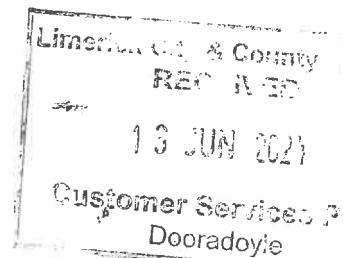
Yours sincerely

Niamh Kavanagh
Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance



11 June 2024

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



Reference Number: DOT-TH-03338-2024

Dear Ms Flannery

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Simon Harris, T.D., dated 30th May 2024.

Yours sincerely


Sarah Garry
Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

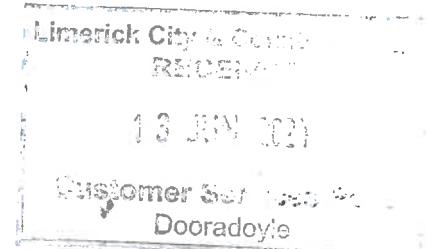
Telephone: 01 619 4021
Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie



10th June 2024

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

Reference Number: DOT-TH-03262-2024



Dear Ms Flannery

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Simon Harris, T.D., dated 28th May 2024.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Garry
Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021
Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

From: Housing Minister Of State
Sent: Thursday 30 May 2024 16:04
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FAO: Ms. Laura Flannery

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Private Secretary of Alan Dillon T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, please see the attached letter.

Kind regards,

Minister of State Alan Dillon's Office

Kyle Hargreaves
Minister of State Alan Dillon, T.D's Office

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1. D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0



Oifig an Runaí Aire
Office of the Minister of State

30th May 2024

Ms. Laura Flannery
customerservices@limerick.ie

Ref No HPLG-MOSD-00022-2024

Dear Ms Flannery,

I refer to your letter of April 11th in relation to the Wind Energy Development Guidelines. This was referred to Alan Dillon, TD., Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, by Eamon Ryan, TD., Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications.

The Department is currently undertaking a focused review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines. The review is addressing a number of key aspects of the Guidelines including noise, setback distance, shadow flicker, community obligation, community dividend and grid connections.

The Department, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) which has primary responsibility for environmental noise matters, has been working to advance guidance on the noise aspect of Guidelines, which is highly technical in nature.

The two Departments have been engaging on proposals regarding the measurement and assessment of noise from wind turbines to ensure they are robust and fit for purpose having regard to, inter alia, the revised 2030 target to generate up to 80% of our electricity from renewable sources.



Further to this engagement, DECC appointed noise consultants in May 2023 to inform any amendments to the noise aspect of the Guidelines. This work is substantially complete. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in conjunction with DECC in respect of its environmental noise remit, will make any further changes to the draft Guidelines which are deemed necessary or appropriate in the wake of this work to ensure that the finalised Guidelines, once issued, are fit for purpose to provide guidance in line with renewable energy and climate targets, whilst having appropriate regard to the impacts of wind energy development, including in relation to noise annoyance.

With regard to the finalisation of the review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines, the Climate Action Plan 2024 sets out a timeline of Q4 2024 for publication of the final updated Guidelines and the Department is working towards meeting this commitment. When finalised, the revised Guidelines will be issued under section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended or, subject to enactment of the Planning and Development Bill 2023, as a National Planning Statement, as appropriate. The current 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines remain in force, pending the finalisation of the review.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claire Darragh".

Claire Darragh

Private Secretary to Minister of State Alan Dillon

Please note: The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015



REPS: 2024-41997

Ms. Laura Flannery
Limerick City and County Council
Merchants Quay
Limerick
V94 EH90

14 June 2024



Dear Ms. Flannery,

Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Social Protection, has asked me to respond to your correspondence regarding the availability of Community Welfare Officers (CWOs) in Intreo Centres.

The delivery of crucial and locally based community welfare services to meet the challenges and the needs of citizens across the country is a priority for me and for my Department. The Community Welfare Service (CWS) continues to provide a flexible service to meet the different needs of clients across the country, including in Limerick City and County who may find themselves in a financially difficult or vulnerable situation. It is important that this service is easily accessible and responsive to our client's needs.

CWOs are available and physically on site daily in over 50 Intreo Centres across the country, including in Limerick Intreo Centre at Dominick Street, and in Newcastle West Intreo Centre, where they are available to be seen by customers without an appointment, during business hours, Monday to Friday.

In addition to meeting citizens in Intreo Centres and Department of Social Protection offices, CWOs can facilitate an appointment within a short time of a person requiring such a meeting, at a mutually agreed location, including at the person's home or indeed where facilities are in place, at their local Social Welfare Branch Office.

While local face-to-face engagement with clients continues to be a cornerstone of the Community Welfare Service, it is important to mention that a person does not need to meet with a CWO to make an application and any person who needs to access the service can submit an application directly without the need to travel to an office.

An tSeirbhís Leasa Pobail, Foireann Tacaíochta Bainistíochta, An Roinn Coimírc Sóisialáí, Ionad Intreo Cluain Dolcáin, Bóthar an Naoú Loc, Baile Átha Cliath 22, D22 XP86

Community Welfare Service, Management Support Team, Department of Social Protection, Clondalkin Intreo Centre, Ninth Lock Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 XP86

A person can apply for a Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) payment by completing a SWA1 form which is available in all Intreo Centres and Branch Offices. It can also be requested by calling 0818 60 70 80 and by using this link www.eforms.gov.ie/en/forms/5. A completed application form together with any supporting documentation can be returned directly to my Department where the claim will be processed quickly.

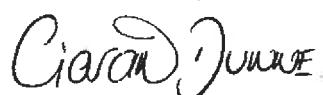
A person can also now speak with a CWO over the phone if they do not wish to travel to meet with a CWO in person. Customers can call the National CWS freephone number at 0818 60 70 80 to get an application form, to ask about a claim, to make an appointment or to speak directly to CWO's who are available on this phoneline to deal with customer queries. This service is proving very popular with customers in rural areas, who can have their CWS needs met without the requirement to travel.

Where it is clear that a person has an urgent or immediate need, every effort is made to ensure that the claim is processed on the same day. CWOs are very experienced and can generally assess when a case is so urgent that it requires an immediate response, and they have the facility to issue same-day manual cheque payments to clients where necessary.

Where a person has a verified MyGovID they can also apply online for an Additional Needs Payment (ANP) at www.MyWelfare.ie. The provision of the ANP online application allows a person to make an application online whilst also providing documentation in support of their claim.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ciaran Dunne".

Ciaran Dunne
Management Support Team