

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **September 2024 Council Meeting**

- Email received on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Transport in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *“the Council write to the relevant Government Department for the establishment of a fund for the rehabilitation of our older housing estates, this fund to be used for the upgrade of footpaths and open spaces and to include extra parking spaces if required, with the funding being required for the safety of every person living in, working or visiting these estates.”*
- Email received on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Justice in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“requesting the Minister to immediately review the fee structure that presently applies to the adaptation of Irish Naturalisation.”*
- Letter received on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, from the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“that, Limerick City and County Council, in conjunction with both the Clare and Kerry County Councils, have a joint approach to apply pressure on the Government to ensure the Shannon Estuary is prioritised and that the findings of the Shannon Estuary Economic Task Force Report be implemented forthwith.”*
- Email received on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Justice in reply to resolution adopted by the Council asking for the law to be changed for all victims of violent assault.
- Email received on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling for a grant to be made available to dispose of asbestos from the roofs of dwelling houses.
- Email received on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council expressing dissatisfaction with Minister’s approval of plans to abstract water from the River Shannon to supply Dublin and other counties.

- Letter received on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2024, from the A/County Secretary, Wexford County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Government to adopt a zero tolerance approach to gender-based violence and requesting the introduction of mandatory minimum sentencing in every conviction of sexual, domestic or gender-based violent assault.
  - Email received on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on his Department to make a grant available to dispose of asbestos from the roofs of dwelling houses.
  - Letters received on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Roscommon County Council, outlining resolutions adopted by the Council calling on the relevant Government Ministers to introduce tougher and increased new fines to deter illegal dumping and seeking the re-introduction of the 9% VAT rate for the hospitality sector.
  - Email – with letter attached - received from NOAC (The National Oversight and Audit Commission) on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, in relation to the publication of the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023.
-

---

**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2024 3:18 PM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Ref: TTAS-MO-03185-2024

Our Ref: TTAS-MO-03185-2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, T.D., I wish to thank you for your correspondence regarding footpaths in Limerick, the contents of which have been noted.

"This correspondence relates to infrastructure within housing estates which is not a matter for Department of Transport. Suggest more relevant to Department of Housing and Local Government."

If you would like me to transfer your correspondence to their offices, please reply to this email indicating so.

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](http://www.lobbying.ie))

An Roinn Iompair

Department of Transport

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

[www.gov.ie/transport](http://www.gov.ie/transport)

---

**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Monday 8 July 2024 14:36  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-05300-2024

Ms. Laura Flannery

**Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-05300-2024**

Dear Ms. Flannery,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the fee structure of the naturalisation process to the Minister of Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee T.D. I am responding to you on behalf of the Minister.

The fees to be paid by an applicant for a certificate of naturalisation are governed by the provisions of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 569 of 2011). The application fee is €175.

A certification fee of €950 is then required following a positive decision being reached on the naturalisation application.

The standard certification fee is set at €950, while a reduced fee of €200 applies in the case of an application made on behalf of a minor or in certain cases where the application is made by a widow, widower or surviving civil partner of an Irish citizen. In the case of recognised refugees and stateless persons, there is no certification fee.

All of the fees payable are kept under ongoing review by the Department. However, there are no current plans to amend the fees.

It's important to note the State has not increased the fees for naturalisation applications since 2011.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

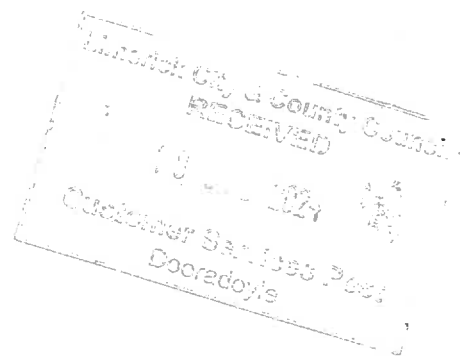
Oifig an tAire,  
Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta  
Office of the Minister  
for Enterprise, Trade and Employment



Our ref: 240946/Min

15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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



Dear Ms Flannery,

I wish to acknowledge your recent correspondence dated 29 May 2024 regarding the resolution adopted by Limerick City and County Council relating to the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Report.

Government examined in detail the recommendations of the independent Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Report and an implementation update, published by my Department in December 2023, outlined the good progress made on implementing actions. The implementation update also noted that some proposals were subject to further consideration in the context of ongoing national policy development. Officials in my Department are currently engaging with Departments and Agencies with a view to publishing a second implementation update in the coming weeks.

I note the Taskforce's recommendation that a regional implementation group be established to bring together key local stakeholders to advance the vision set out by the Taskforce. This would be beneficial in driving implementation at a local level and officials in my Department are available to engage with Limerick City and County Council, and the other Local Authorities in the region on proposals for how this group might be established.

Oifig an tAire,  
Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta  
Office of the Minister  
for Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
I trust this is of assistance to you.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Peter Burke'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

---

Minister Peter Burke, T.D.  
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

---

**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:49 PM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-08511-2024

Ms. Laura Flannery

**Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-08511-2024**

Dear Ms. Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister for Justice, I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your correspondence dated 29 July 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Emma McHugh

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice.

---

**From:** Minister O'Brien Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024 4:09 PM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MOBO-02799-2024

7th August 2024

Ref: HPLG-MOBO-02799-2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

Thank you for your email to Mr. Darragh Oâ€™Brien, T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in connection with your query.

Your correspondence is currently receiving attention and a further reply will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Â

Eoghan McCarthy

Private Secretary



---

**From:** Minister O'Brien Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024 4:06 PM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MOBO-02798-2024

7th August 2024

Ref: HPLG-MOBO-02798-2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

Thank you for your email to Mr. Darragh Oâ€™Brien, T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in connection with your query.

Your correspondence is currently receiving attention and a further reply will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Â

Eoghan McCarthy

Private Secretary

County Secretary

SD/ZP

9<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

**Memo to All Local Authorities**

**To Whom It May Concern**

At the July Meeting of Wexford County Council the Members passed the following motion:

*"I ask Wexford County Council to write to Minister Helen McEntee and An Taoiseach Simon Harris to ask the Government to adopt a zero tolerance approach toward gender based violence and ask that mandatory minimum sentencing be introduced in every conviction of sexual, domestic or gender based violent assault".*

It was also agreed that this motion be circulated to all local authorities.

I would appreciate if you could note the view of the Members and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



**Susan Doran,**  
**A/County Secretary.**

**e-mail:** [susan.doran@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:susan.doran@wexfordcoco.ie)

**Phone:** 053 9196260



---

**From:** Plenary Meeting

**From:** Minister O'Brien Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 1:46 PM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MOBO-02799-2024

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

11th September 2024

RE: HPLG-MOBO-02799-2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of correspondence dated 29th July 2024 from the Meetings Administrator in Limerick City & County Council informing this Department of the following resolution "That, Limerick City and County Council call on the Department of Housing and Heritage to make a grant available to dispose of Asbestos from the roofs of dwelling houses."

I wish to reply and advise the members that a comprehensive review and evaluation of the schemes under the Croi Conaithe Towns Fund which includes the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant has been completed and is now under consideration. All proposals and recommendations as part of the review are being considered.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan McCarthy

Private Secretary



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



Mr. Eamonn Ryan T.D.  
Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications  
29-31 Adelaide Road  
Dublin  
D02 X285

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**  
**Re: Notice of Motion - Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council**

Dear Minister

At a recent Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council, the following motion was agreed by the Members:

**NOTICE OF MOTION 16.24 HOUSEHOLD WASTE DISPOSAL**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Frain

**SECONDED** by Cllr. Keogh

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister for Environment seeking the imposition of tougher and increased new fines to deter illegal dumping.

At the request of the Council, I would be obliged to receive your reply to this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

---

Karen Hanley  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services  
Roscommon County Council  
Email: [meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie)



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



Mr. Jack Chambers T.D.  
Minister for Finance  
Government Buildings  
Upper Merrion Street  
D02 R583

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024  
Re: Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council

Dear Minister

At a recent Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council, the following motion was agreed by the Members:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh  
**SECONDED** by Cllr. Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** to send a letter to the Minister for Finance Jack Chambers and Minister for Tourism Catherine Martin seeking the reintroduction of the 9% VAT rate for the hospitality sector.

At the request of the Council, I would be obliged to receive your reply to this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

---

Karen Hanley  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services  
Roscommon County Council  
Email: [meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie)



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



Ms. Catherine Martin T.D.  
Minister for Tourism Arts Culture Gaeltacht Sport and Media  
23 Kildare Street  
Dublin 2  
D02 TD30

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**  
**Re: Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council**

Dear Minister

At a recent Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council, the following motion was agreed by the Members:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh  
**SECONDED** by Cllr. Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** to send a letter to the Minister for Finance Jack Chambers and Minister for Tourism Catherine Martin seeking the reintroduction of the 9% VAT rate for the hospitality sector.

At the request of the Council, I would be obliged to receive your reply to this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

---

Karen Hanley  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services  
Roscommon County Council  
Email: [meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie)

---

**From:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023 - letter to Councillors  
**Attachments:** 20240920 NOAC letter to Councillors.pdf

**From:** Housing Noac  
**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2024 9:49 AM  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023 - letter to Councillors

Dear Data Co-ordinators and colleagues

Further to my email yesterday in relation to the publication of the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023, I am now contacting you again with regard to the attached letter.

At its meeting on 18 September, the Board of NOAC decided to issue a short summary of the report to elected members, for their information. The attached letter from Claire Gavin, Head of NOAC Secretariat, contains the summary and we would appreciate your assistance in arranging that this letter reaches the elected members of your local authority in advance of or at their next meeting please.

If you require any further information with regard to the above, please let me know.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Kind regards  
Deirdre

**Deirdre Byrne**  
**NOAC Secretariat**  
**Custom House**  
**Dublin 1**  
**D01 W6XO**  
**01-8882603**





Dear Councillor,

The National Oversight & Audit Commission (NOAC) has just published its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Local Authority Performance Indicator Report.

The report provides measurable and meaningful indicator data on progress, and performance of local authorities on 45 separate indicators over 11 distinct areas. Some of the report's findings are shown below, but you may find it useful to look at indicators relative to your particular local authority.

#### Indicative key Indicators

- The overall vacancy percentage of directly provided local authority stock is now at **2.81%** down from **3.03%** in 2022.
- **Average Re-letting Time** in 2023 was **33.72 weeks**, an improvement on 35.22 weeks in 2022.
- The number of **rented dwellings inspected** was **50,436**, a rise from 40,282 in 2022.
- **70,584** pollution complaints were made to local authorities in 2023.
- The total number of **library visits** in 2023 was **13,879,927**, with **16,219,445 items issued** to library members.
- **299,333.79** days were lost to certified sick leave by the local authority sector in 2023.
- **1,278** separate **websites** are being operated by the 31 local authorities.
- **Six** local authorities showed a **deficit on the Revenue Account** at the end of 2023.

At the launch of the report the **Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage** said: "This 10th Anniversary Performance Indicator Report is evidence of our local government's dedication to excellence and accountability."

**Michael McCarthy, Chair of NOAC:** "Local government continues to demonstrate its resilience and ability to embrace and adapt to new demands and priorities. In addition, they are also facing increasing demands and rising costs, which makes financial management and sustainability more important than ever."

It is hoped that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Authority Performance Indicator Report will support local government in their ongoing efforts a high standard of service and accountability to their communities.

The report can be found at the link below;

[https://www.noac.ie/noac\\_publications/report-71-noac-performance-indicator-report-2023/](https://www.noac.ie/noac_publications/report-71-noac-performance-indicator-report-2023/)

Printed copies of the report will be available in due course. Please contact the NOAC Secretariat by email at [NOAC@housing.gov.ie](mailto:NOAC@housing.gov.ie) if you wish to receive a copy.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Gavin". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Claire" and last name "Gavin" clearly distinguishable.

---

**Claire Gavin**  
**Head of Secretariat**

**20 September 2024**