

## CORRESPONDENCE

### November 2024 Council Meeting

- Correspondence received on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, from the Disability Federation of Ireland.
- Letter received on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Donegal County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to hedge-cutting policy.
- Letter received on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Donegal County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to extradition procedure.
- Email received on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, from the Office of the Meetings Administrator, Westmeath County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to secondary level Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) classes.
- Letter received on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2024, from the A/Senior Executive Officer, Fingal County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to a transient visitor tax.
- Email received from Niall Collins, T.D., Minister of State, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on Each Member of the Oireachtas for Limerick to oppose the lifting of the passenger cap at Dublin Airport.
- Letter received on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to write to the Minister in relation to the fuel allowance grant and an extension of same for Old Age Pensioners.
- Letter received on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, from Senator Maria Byrne in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on Each Member of the Oireachtas for Limerick to oppose the lifting of the passenger cap at Dublin Airport.
- Email received on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, from the Office of the Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and the Circular Economy, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *“the Council write to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to request that NBI (National Broadband Ireland) and Eir work together to share information and resources to ensure that all housing units are supplied with High Speed Broadband as is legislated for in the Gigabit Infrastructure Act which aims to eliminate digital exclusion.”*
- Letter received on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, from the Department of Social Protection in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *“the Council write to the Minister for Social Protection in relation to fuel allowance grant and an extension of same for Old Age*

*Pensioners. Due to the unusually adverse weather, even during the summer months, it is imperative that the fuel allowance be extended for a longer period during the year to care for our ageing population needs."*

- Email received on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, from the Office of the Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and the Circular Economy in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *'Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister with responsibility for Public Procurement to seek guidance in relation to the development of a policy on the procurement of sustainable food and beverages, and catering services.'*
  - Letter received on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Waterford City and County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to gender apartheid.
  - Letter received on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *'Limerick City and County Council write to the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) regarding the waiting times as they are extremely long and people really need these works done. The Pre-Works BER - are taking approx. 10 - 12 months from application; A Survey is taking approx. 14 months from application; Works Completed - approx. 24 - 26 months from application; Post works BER/Inspection - approx. 2-3 months after works completed.'*
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## DISABILITY FEDERATION OF IRELAND

Fumbally Court, Fumbally Lane, Dublin 8, D08 TXY8

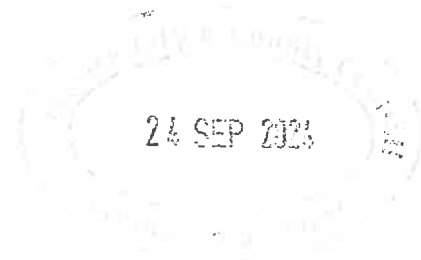
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All Councillors,  
Limerick City & County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick,  
V94 EH90



Friday 20 September 2024

Dear Councillors,

On behalf of the Disability Federation of Ireland, I'd like to welcome you to your new term as a local councillor. The Disability Federation of Ireland, DFI, is a national umbrella group for disability organisations in Ireland, with over 120 members around the country. DFI works for an Ireland where people with disabilities can and do participate fully in all aspects of society. We and our member organisations work to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, or UN CRPD, to achieve this equal participation. You can learn more about DFI and our work at our website, [www.disability-federation.ie](http://www.disability-federation.ie). To learn about our current advocacy work, you can view our pre-budget submission here: <https://www.disability-federation.ie/budget25>.

One of the articles of the UN CRPD, Article 31, is on Statistics and Data Collection. It recognises that the issues facing people with disabilities cannot be properly addressed unless there is good data on the lives of people with disabilities. To that end, I'm writing to you today to both introduce our organisation and provide you with a copy of a factsheet for your local area. These factsheets are based on data from Census 2022 and give a snapshot of disability statistics for the area that your council serves. This provides information on how common disability is in your area and the prevalence of different kinds of disabilities. It also provides comparative information on the education level, employment, and social housing status of people with disabilities compared with the general population in your area, highlighting some of the barriers disabled people face. We hope that these facts will prove helpful to you in your work as a councillor and allow you to better understand and address the issues facing people with disabilities. We also hope it will help you as you get to know the disability community in your area, as the true experts on

disability in any city, town or village are the people with disabilities living there.

This factsheet may be useful to you as you develop your local authority's corporate plan. As you know, every local authority has to have a Corporate Plan, and the process of developing them is currently underway. This process offers a practical opportunity to translate our knowledge of demographics into strategic thinking for the future. As these plans serve as the council's strategic framework for action, it is crucial that they reflect a commitment to meet the needs of all citizens, including those 22% of people who are disabled.

The Department provides specific guidance on the drafting of Corporate Plans which includes a "Suggested non-exhaustive list of baseline data" to be considered. While disability has unfortunately been omitted from this list, we strongly believe that local authorities should routinely include this in all strategy and policy documents.

Moreover, we urge local authorities to disability proof their policies and strategies to ensure they don't inadvertently have a negative impact on disabled people. Some practical examples of where this has happened in the past include active travel projects, which have reduced access to community spaces for disabled people and the deposit re-turn scheme, which was introduced nationally without due consideration of the accessibility of machines.

Ensuring that disability and access is referenced throughout Corporate Plans is also necessary to ensure Local Authorities meet their obligations under key strategies and legislation including,

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (UN CRPD),
- The National Disability Strategy (currently being developed by DCEDIY),
- Public Sector Duty,
- The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027,
- The Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025.

One of the key goals of the UN CRPD is for people with disabilities to be part of their community. DFI has commissioned research to examine implementation of the UN CRPD at a local authority level and findings will be available towards the end of the year. Provisional data shows that there is inconsistency and a lack of standardisation of approaches to disability inclusion across each of the local authorities.

Many of the decisions that make a community inclusive are made at the level of local government, so local authorities need resources to carry out this work - including full time staff who understand the challenges of disabled people in their community, and mechanisms to allow people with disabilities to consult meaningfully with the local authority.

Sustained, reliable funding and human resource allocation is needed. Currently, there is no sustained funding source for programmes to implement the UN CRPD at a local level or to make communities more disability friendly. Some of the actions taken through the Age Friendly Programme have a positive impact on people with disabilities, but disabled people need and deserve a similar programme tailored to their specific needs.

For this reason, in Budget 2025, DFI has called for:

- A new programme to create disability inclusive communities, similar to the current Age Friendly programme. This programme would provide reliable, sustained funding to make communities more open and inclusive to people with disabilities. Cost: €7 million
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to make the role of Access Officer full-time in every local authority - with a grade and salary appropriate to the role, senior enough to be able to properly implement change. Cost: €1.5 million/year

Finally, we note that public consultation is a key element of the plan drafting process. To ensure the needs of disabled people are considered, it is vital that consultations are inclusive and accessible to all. The National Disability Authority, NDA, has created a toolkit to support public bodies to achieve this. The toolkit is available on the NDA's website by searching "guidance on consultation" and should be used to ensure genuine engagement with local disabled people is prioritised. The "Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making", published by the Department Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2023, offers further useful information. If you need further support, please reach out and we would be happy to assist you.

Kind regards,



Elaine Teague  
Chief Executive Officer  
Disability Federation of Ireland

Disability Federation of Ireland is a company limited by guarantee not having share capital, registered in Dublin.  
CRO No: 140948, CHY No: 6177, CRA No: 20010584

Directors: Michael Doyle (Chairperson), Gráinne O'Leary (Vice-Chairperson), Siobhán Long (Vice-Chairperson), Fran Brennan, Ann Marie Ellison, Karen Foley, Padraig Hannafin, Aoife Lambe, John McDonald, Peter Murphy, Shane O'Brien, Julie Sharp, Barry Sheridan



DISABILITY FEDERATION OF IRELAND

# Disability Profile: Limerick<sup>1</sup>



23%

of the population of Limerick, or **47,348** people, have at least one disability.

Number of people in each age range with a disability



0-14	15-24	25-44	44-65	65+
4,184	5,159	9,404	13,339	15,262

## Disability by gender

Male **22,973** Female **24,375**



## Number of people with each type of disability



19,202	15,994	13,222	11,121	11,351	9,663	5,162
Difficulty with pain, breathing or any other chronic illness or condition	Difficulty with basic physical activities	Blindness or a vision impairment	Difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating	Psychological or emotional condition or a mental health issue	Deafness or a hearing impairment	Intellectual disability



## Education level obtained<sup>2,3</sup>

No formal education

4%

have no formal education compared to 1.87% of the general population

Primary level

13%

did not progress beyond primary education compared to 6.52% of the general population.

Secondary

33%

had completed upper secondary compared to 26.75% of the general population.

Further education

11%

had completed further education compared to 10.55% of the general population.

Higher education

22%

had completed higher level education compared to 28.85% of the general population.

Still in education

9%

are still in education compared to 12.21% of the general population.



## Labour Participation<sup>4</sup>

30.38% People with disabilities over 15 are at work compared to 45.58% of the general population



## Social Housing<sup>5</sup>

13.85% People with disabilities are in social housing (by household) compared to 9.09% of the general population

1. All statistics based on Census 2022, cso.ie

2. Further education includes vocational/technical certificate and advanced certificate/completed apprenticeship, higher education includes Higher Certificate, Ordinary/Honours Bachelor, Postgraduate Diploma/Degree, and Doctorate. Data based on special tabulation from CSO.

3. % of all adults, both ceased and not ceased their education. Adults who did not indicate whether they had ceased education are not shown.

4. These numbers represent every individual over 15, including those in education, those over 65 and people retired.

5. People aged 15 years and over, who were renting from a Local Authority or a Voluntary Body.

Due to changes in the census questions, the data from Census 2022 is not comparable to data from previous censuses



[www.disability-federation.ie](http://www.disability-federation.ie)



10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

**For the Attention of All Local Authorities**

**To Whom It May Concern**

The members of Donegal County Council at their meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 resolved to adopt the following resolution:

*"That the hedge cutting policy currently in place be reviewed as it is not working for farmers, bus operators or contractors at present".*

It was suggested that the hedge cutting season be extended to include the last two weeks of August to accommodate the new school term and ensure sufficient visibility for the increased volume of traffic on the road network.

Members asked that it be circulated to all Local Authorities for their attention.

Yours sincerely,

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Patsy Lafferty  
Meetings Administrator



10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

**For the Attention of All Local Authorities**

**To Whom It May Concern**

The members of Donegal County Council at their meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 resolved to adopt the following resolution:

*"Cáineann agus diúltaíonn an Chomhairle seo an úsáid roghnaitheach den nós imeachta eiseachadta i gcoinne áitritheoirí an chontae seo agus in aon chuid eile de na 26 contae, imeachtaí arna n-agairt ag oifigigh na Breataine sna 6 chontae áitithe, bunaithe ar fhianaise a deirtear a bailíodh agus a tiomsaíodh na blianta fada ó shin ag Constáblacht Ríoga Uladh agus a bhfuil a chlú millte le fada an lá.*

*Fórsa atá iomráiteach as a pháirteachas, a sheicteachas, a chlaonpháirteachas coiriúil agus an droch-chóireáil brúidiúil ar líon mór daoine atá faoina choimeád. Ina theannta sin, fórsa a theip orthu minic go leor fianaise ríthábhachtach a choinneáil maidir le gníomhartha dílseoirí, ach is cosúil go bhfuil fianaise curtha ar fáil acu anois maidir leis na daoine sin.*

*Ní próiseas cuí an dlí é an rud atá ag tarlú anseo leis na himeachtaí eiseachadta seo, ach a mhalairt air sin, is mí-úsáid polaitiúla é chun aird a tharraingt ar shiúl ó fhoréigean stáit na Breataine.*

*Iarraimid, mar ionadaithe tofa ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, ar an rialtas i mBaile Átha Cliath críoch láithreach a chur leis na himeachtaí scannalacha seo".*

*"This Council condemns and rejects the selective use of the extradition procedure against residents of this county and any other part of the 26-Counties, proceedings invoked by British officials in the occupied 6 counties based on so-called evidence*



*supposedly collected and collated many decades ago by the long-discredited Royal Ulster Constabulary.*

*A force notorious for its partisanship, sectarianism, criminal collusion, and brutal maltreatment of countless people in its custody. A force, moreover, that failed so often to retain crucial evidence in relation to loyalist actions yet apparently has now produced evidence in relation to these individuals.*

*What is happening here with these extradition proceedings is not the due process of law but is instead the misuse of power for crass political purpose in order to distract from British state violence.*

*We as elected representatives to Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall therefore call upon the government in Baile Átha Cliath to order a halt to these outrageous proceedings immediately".*

It was agreed to circulate same to all Local Authorities for their attention.

Yours sincerely,



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Patsy Lafferty  
Meetings Administrator

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**From:** Caroline Byrne

**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 4:09 PM

Dear Meetings Administrator,

Please see Motion below which was considered by the Members of Westmeath County Council at the September 2024 Monthly Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.

*“That Westmeath County Council writes to Norma Foley, T.D., Minister for Education, to remove the mandatory aspect of secondary level Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) classes and that the entire SPHE curriculum would be reviewed”.*

It was agreed to circulate the Motion to each local authority.

Regards,

C.Byrne  
(on behalf of P. Murtagh, Meetings Administrator)

**Staff Officer, Corporate Services Section,  
Westmeath County Council,  
Aras an Chontae, Mullingar,  
Co.Westmeath N91 FH4N**



15<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Minister for Finance  
Jack Chambers T.D.  
Department of Finance,  
Government Buildings,  
Upper Merrion Street,  
Dublin 2, D02 R583

**Ref: Councillor J. Humphreys - Transient Visitor Tax**

Dear Minister Chambers

I wish to advise you that at a meeting of Fingal County Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, the following motion was PASSED by the Members.

**Motion: Councillor J. Humphreys**

"That the Chief Executive writes to the Minister for Finance and all local Councils calling for the introduction of enabling legislation to allow County Councils' to levy a Transient Visitor Tax, on overnight stays in hotels, short-term rentals, such as Airbnb's, and other accommodations within the County."

I would be obliged if you could forward a detailed response in relation to this matter as soon as possible.

With kind regards

**Nikki Halleran**  
**A/Senior Executive Officer**

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**From:** Niall Collins

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 4:56 PM

**To:** Jacinta Shanny; DL - Oireachtas Members

**Cc:** Leahy, Mark; Foley; Aedin Foley

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]RE: Resolution adopted at September Meeting of Limerick City and County Council

Thank you for your email.

The passenger cap referred to is a condition of a grant of planning permission by Fingal County Council to the Dublin Airport Authority. As such it is a matter for that planning authority to deal with in the context of any application before it.

Kind regards,

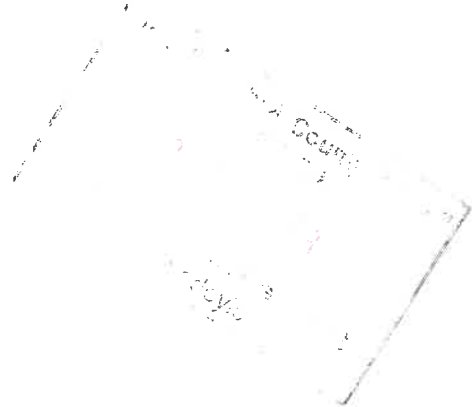
Niall Collins TD  
MINISTER OF STATE

**Oifig an Aire Coinníre Sóisialaí**  
**Office of the Minister for Social Protection**



Case Number: REPS-2024-43996

Ms. Ciara Farrell  
Senior Executive Officer  
Corporate Services  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick



23 October 2024

23 OCT 2024

Dear Ms Farrell,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence to the Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, regarding the Fuel Allowance.

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

Anas Mhic Dhiarmada, Sraid Seórais, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 WY09  
Anas Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1, D01 WY09  
minister@welfare.ie • 1841 704 3000 • [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)



**SENATOR  
MARIA BYRNE**

**Office:** O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.  
**Tel:** 061 310860

**Seanad Éireann,** Leinster House,  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

**Email:** maria.byrne@oireachtas.ie

**Mob:** 086 830 0951

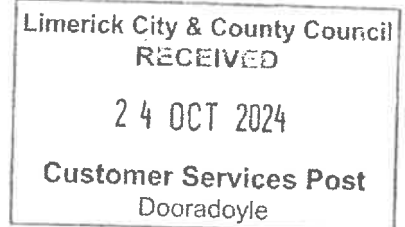
@maria16byrne

@MariaByrneLimerick

Maria Byrne

senator\_mariabyrne

Ms. Ciara Farrell  
Senior Executive Officer  
Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services  
Limerick City and County Council  
Limerick.



Dear Ciara,

Many thanks for your letter informing me of the resolution that was adopted at the Limerick City and County Council meeting in September.

"That Limerick City and County Council oppose the lifting of the passenger cap at Dublin Airport".

I fully support this stance and I have publicly stated this on the floor of the Senate and I have called on the leader of the Seanad to organise a debate on Aviation Policy in the Seanad as I believe regional Airports like our own Shannon Airport are underutilised and need to be supported and helped to grow. I would appreciate if you would bring this response to the attention of the Mayor and Councillors.

Thanking you,

Kind regards,

Maria Byrne

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**From:** Minister of State  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 11:14 AM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Limerick CoCo Resolution NBI & Eir sharing resources

Our Ref: CCAE-MOS-00905-2024

Ciara Farrell

Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services

Limerick City and County Council

Corporate Headquarters

Merchants Quay

Limerick

V94 EH90

5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Ms. Farrell,

On behalf of The Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy, Ossian Smyth T.D., I refer to your recent correspondence regarding a request for NBI and Eir to share information and resources to supply High Speed Broadband.

Ireland's Digital Connectivity Strategy, published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, sets ambitious targets, which include providing a Gigabit network to all households and businesses in Ireland by 2028 and access to 5G in all populated areas by 2030.

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland.

The mapping consultation between fixed line operators and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications was concluded in 2019.

As part of this mapping consultation the three large, fixed line operators (open eir, Virgin Media and Siro) were asked to submit their current High-Speed Broadband (HSBB) coverage maps and potential future maps for HSBB.

At the time HSBB was defined as a fixed line technology that could deliver 30Mbps or greater download speed and 6Mbps or greater upload speed.

Resulting from the analysis of this data, the National Broadband Ireland (NBI) network is deployed to premises in the Intervention Area where HSBB was not going to be delivered by commercial operators. This

area has been published on the Department's website since 2019, is AMBER on the Broadband map and is the area where the State-Subsidised network is being deployed.

Eir has a legal obligation to provide access to its infrastructure (ducts and poles) to facilitate the roll-out of the NBI network. The Department is not aware of any issues, as Eir are providing all the information NBI need to access that infrastructure.

Please note that the GIA does not come into effect until November 2025, however NBI's right to access Eir in-building infrastructure (or vice versa) is already provided for under the Broadband Cost Reduction Regulations (BCRR) (2016).

These regulations mean that either party is entitled to request access to the in-building access points of Multi Dwelling Units to roll out broadband and the other party are required to meet all reasonable requests for same. If there is a dispute in relation to these issues, then a formal dispute may be taken to ComReg under Reg 10 of the BCRR.

I trust this information has been of assistance to you.

Kind Regards,

Albert Morris

*Private Secretary to Minister of State Ossian Smyth, with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy*

*Roinn Comhshaoil, AerÁjide agus CumarsÁjide*

*Department of Environment, Climate and Communications*

*Tom Johnson House, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin D04 K7X*





Ms. Ciara Farrell,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services,  
Limerick City and County Council.

DEPREP– 2024 – 43996

November 2024

Dear Ciara,

Ms. Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Social Protection, has asked me to reply to your correspondence on behalf of the members of Limerick City and County Council regarding the resolution *“that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Social Protection in relation to Fuel Allowance Grant and an extension of the same for old age pensioners. Due to unusually adverse weather even during the summer months, it is imperative that the Fuel Allowance be extended for a longer period during the year to care for our aging population needs.”*

The Fuel Allowance is an important measure that assists pensioners and other welfare dependent householders to address income deficiency, especially during the winter when a household faces increased heating needs. The duration of the scheme is designed to coincide with the coldest periods of the year, and it is for this reason the scheme runs from October to mid-April.

While consideration is always given to suggested improvements to the Departments schemes, there was no provision made in Budget 2025 to extend the duration of the Fuel Allowance season. Budget 2025 did provide for a €300 lump-sum payment to all Fuel Allowance recipients in November of this year. The €300 lumpsum is the equivalent of over an additional 9-weeks Fuel Allowance and the payment of the lumpsum during the winter period ensures that households receive the additional support when they need it the most.

The Fuel Allowance payment is not the old support provided by the Department to households towards the cost of heating their homes. The Household Benefits Package comprises the electricity or gas allowance, and the free television licence. People over the age of 70 receive the HHB package, with one package provided per household. The package is also available to people living in the State aged 66-69 years who are in receipt of certain social welfare payments or who satisfy a means test.

Under the supplementary welfare allowance (SWA) scheme, a heating supplement may be paid to assist people in certain circumstances that have special heating needs. If a recipient of a social protection or HSE payment has exceptional heating costs due to ill health, infirmity or a medical condition which he/she is unable to meet out of household income, that person may apply for a heating supplement. There is no automatic entitlement to a payment. Heating supplements are payable at the discretion of the officers administering the scheme taking into account the requirements of the legislation and all the relevant circumstances of the case in order to ensure that the payments target those most in need of assistance.

Under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance scheme, the Department can make additional needs payments to help meet essential expenses that a person cannot pay from their weekly income. Payments are made at the discretion of the officers administering the scheme, taking into account the requirements of the legislation, and all the relevant circumstances of the case in order to ensure that the payments target those most in need of assistance.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

David O'Callaghan  
SWA and Free Schemes Unit

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

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**From:** Minister of State  
**Sent:** Monday 11 November 2024 13:55  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]CCAIE-MOS-00766-2024

Our Ref: CCAIE-MOS-00766-2024

Laura Flannery

11/11/2024

Dear Ms Flannery,

On behalf of the Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy, Ossian Smyth T.D., I refer to your correspondence dated 29th May 2024 regarding Limerick City and County Council seeking guidance in relation to the development of a policy on the procurement of sustainable food and beverages, and catering services.

In April this year, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications published a new Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan, Buying Greener: Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027, which will play a key role in driving the implementation of green and circular procurement practices across the public sector. Key areas of focus in the Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan include measures to progress Green Public Procurement implementation in the Public Sector; Green Public Procurement Monitoring and Reporting; Green Public Procurement Training and Awareness; and further development of national Green Public Procurement guidance and criteria. In addition, the Strategy sets out how we will undertake market engagement, avail of research and innovation, and EU and international initiatives on Green Public Procurement.

The Strategy also has a key sectoral focus with related Green Public Procurement targets included. For example, the Strategy sets out a target of a minimum of 10% by value (â,–) of food sought by public sector bodies under new contract arrangements (including via contractors such as canteen service providers), is to be certified organic in a number of food categories as set out under the target.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7b1f8-green-public-procurement-strategy-and-action-plan-2024-2027/>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published updated Green Public Procurement guidance for the Public Sector in July 2024. The Guidance is currently accompanied by national Green Public Procurement criteria for eleven priority product/sectors including Food and Catering Services.

The EPA Green Public Procurement guidance and criteria are available at:

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/green-public-procurement/>

I trust this information has been of assistance to you.

Kind Regards,

*Albert Morris*

Private Secretary to Minister of State for the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan, Delivery and Reform

Government Buildings | Upper Merrion Street | Dublin 2 | D02 R583

An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, An Plean Forbartha Náisiúnta, Seachadadh agus Athchíriú

Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan, Delivery and Reform



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge  
Waterford City & County Council

**Our Ref:** HD/AF/PM/2024/245

Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate HQ  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick  
V94 EH90



7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

To whom it may concern

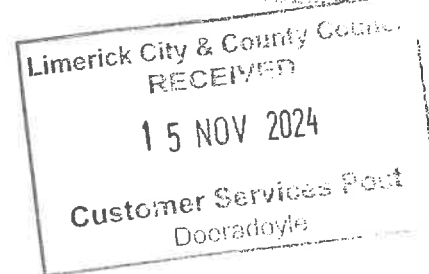
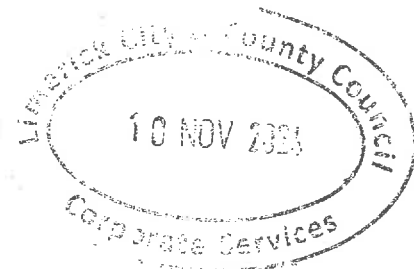
The following was resolved and agreed by the members at a meeting of Waterford City and County Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

*'That Waterford City & County Council supports United Against Gender Apartheid and their campaign to have the crime of 'gender apartheid' incorporated into Article 2 of the draft Crimes Against Humanity Convention.'*

At the request of the Council, I am circulating this motion to all Local Authorities for the attention of elected members.

Yours sincerely,

**Honor Dunphy**  
**Meetings Administrator**  
[hdunphy@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:hdunphy@waterfordcouncil.ie)



Ms. Ciara Farrell  
Senior Executive Officer  
Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services  
Limerick City and County Council  
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Merchants Quay  
Limerick  
Co. Limerick  
V94 EH90

13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Ms. Farrell,

Thank you for contacting SEAI, we appreciate all feedback on our program's.

We wish to advise that we are endeavouring to reduce the waiting times at all stages of the Warmer Homes Scheme (WHS) application process. A new panel of contractor's was established in September 2023 which has increased capacity.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications are the Department responsible for setting policy in relation to the WHS and since 2022, the Scheme targets the worst performing properties, by prioritising homes that were built and occupied before 1993 and have a pre-works BER of E, F or G. Homes built on or before 1993 or have a BER of E, F or G may receive works at a sooner stage in the process.

We hope this clarifies your queries, but if you should require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at [warmerhomes@seai.ie](mailto:warmerhomes@seai.ie) or 01808 2005.

Yours sincerely,

*Máire O'Shea*

Máire O'Shea  
**Warmer Homes Administrator,  
Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme**