

## CORRESPONDENCE

### January 2025 Council Meeting

- Email received on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister to expedite the final report from HIQA on the need for a second A&E in Limerick.
- Letter received on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Kerry County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Finance to provide extra funding to Local Authorities as a result of the 'Apple' Tax ruling.
- Email received on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2024, from the Minister for Transport in reply to correspondence from the Council requesting emergency funding for roads due to ongoing bad weather across Limerick City and County.
- Letter received on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council seeking his intervention in ensuring the filling of the specialist nursing vacancies in the University Hospital Limerick Oncology Department, as soon as possible.
- Email received on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council seeking his intervention in ensuring the filling of the specialist nursing vacancies in the University Hospital Limerick Oncology Department, as soon as possible.
- Letter received on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, from the Office of the Minister for Rural and Community Development in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister to remove the condition that a secondary land holding of one hectare minimum should apply to enable qualification for the Local Improvement Scheme.
- Email received on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Donegal County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to Rainwater Harvesting.

- Email received on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, from the Meetings Administrator, Donegal County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the restoration of Town Councils.
- Letter received on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, from the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services Department, Rural Development Directorate, in relation to resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the GAA.
- Letter received on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, from the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services Department, Rural Development Directorate, in relation to resolution adopted by the Council regarding housing aid for older people's grant.
- Copy of letter sent to An Taoiseach by the Meetings Administrator, Leitrim County Council, on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, regarding resolution adopted by the Council in relation to voting by the diaspora in the Presidential Election.
- Letter received from the Meetings Administrator, Roscommon County Council, on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, in relation to resolution adopted by the Council regarding a Ministry in the incoming Government for rural and urban isolation and loneliness.

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**From:** Plenary Meeting

**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2024 11:40 AM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-07821-2024

HEA-MO-07821-2024

25th November 2024

Dear Ms. Farrell,

The Report of the Independent Investigation by retired Chief Justice Mr Frank Clarke into the tragic death of Aoife Johnston at University Hospital Limerick (UHL) in December 2022 was published on the 20th September 2024.

On foot of this report, the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) has been asked to lead a review into urgent and emergency care capacity in the Midwest region, including to determine whether a second Emergency Department is required. HIQA published terms of reference for the review in August. An interim briefing is expected in February 2025 with a final report expected in Summer 2025. The final report will be published on HIQA's website.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan Flynn

Private Secretary to the Minister for Health



## Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí,  
Áras an Chontae,  
Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí,  
V92 H7VT.

## COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

## Corporate Services

Kerry County Council,  
County Buildings,  
Tralee, Co. Kerry,  
V92 H7VT.

Guthán | Tel 066 7183514 | Rphost | Email [secretary@kerrycoco.ie](mailto:secretary@kerrycoco.ie) | Suíomh | Web [www.kerrycoco.ie](http://www.kerrycoco.ie)

13<sup>th</sup> November 2024



Dear Meeting Administrator,

At the October meeting of the Kerry County Council, the members passed the following motion and agreed to circulate it to all Councils.

*"That we write to the Minister for Finance seeking that the 31 local authorities across Ireland would be provided €2 million of discretionary funding from the €14 billion surplus as a result of the Apple Tax ruling."*

Yours Sincerely,

Liam Quinlan

Senior Executive Officer

Corporate Services



GAEILGE AGUS FÁILTE

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**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Monday 2 December 2024 12:17  
**To:** Customer Services  
  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Ref: TTAS-MO-02802-2024

Our Ref: TTAS-MO-02802-2024

Dear Ms. Flannery,

I would like to begin by apologising for the delay in the response. The Department has received a large volume of correspondence over the past months, so I have not been able to respond as quickly as I would like to.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 28th May regarding emergency funding on roads due to ongoing bad weather across Limerick City and County.

The improvement and maintenance of regional and local roads is the statutory responsibility of each local authority in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Roads Act 1993. Works on those roads are funded from local authorities' own resources and are supplemented by State Road grants. The initial selection and prioritisation of works to be funded is a matter for the Council.

Within the budget available for the regional and local road grant programme, the objective is to allocate funding to eligible local authorities on as equitable a basis as possible taking the length of the road network into account. The main focus of the grants continues to be the protection and renewal of the regional and local road network.

The 2024 regional and local road grants were notified to local authorities in February this year and Limerick City and County Council received an allocation of over €38 million for the maintenance and improvement of their regional and local roads network; this represents an increase of over €3.5m compared to their 2023 allocation. On 31st May 2024, I announced additional funding of €30 million to local authorities through Restoration Improvement (RI) Grants following persistent rainfall over winter and spring. Limerick City and County Council has been allocated €1,275,000 under this supplementary allocation.

It should be noted that Exchequer funding for regional and local roads is intended to supplement realistic contributions from local authorities' own resources. As the statutory road authorities for their area, it is open to local authorities to prioritise investment on regional and local roads.

In line with established practice, the Department emphasises to local authorities each year the importance of setting aside a contingency fund to manage severe weather events, including flooding and cold weather.

All exchequer funding for the Regional and Local Road programme for 2024 has been allocated at this time; however, each Council can liaise directly with their assigned Departmental Engineer Inspector to discuss any unforeseen road deterioration in their region. The Department is fully committed to working with local authorities and helping them reprioritise work programmes as needed in order to retain a safe road network for all.

With best wishes,

Eamon Ryan

Minister for Transport

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)



29 November 2024

Ms Ciara Farrell  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick  
V94 EH90

Reference Number: DOT-TH-15793-2024



Dear Ms Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Simon Harris, T.D., dated 27th November 2024.

Yours sincerely

  
Sarah Garry  
Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021  
Email: [taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie)

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**From:** Plenary Meeting

**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 12:55 PM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-08933-2024

HEA-MO-08933-2024

5th December 2024

Dear Ms. Farrell,

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, thank you for correspondence from Limerick City and County Council in relation to staffing at the Oncology Department in University Hospital Limerick (UHL).

The HSE Mid West has advised that UHL has been successful in recruiting the necessary oncology nursing staff, and a further medical oncologist before year end. This will help to facilitate UHL meeting its Chemotherapy access time targets.

The HSE Mid West has also advised that no patient in its cancer centre has had their chemotherapy cancelled due to staffing levels. Furthermore, timely access to treatment for its patients is a top priority, and any delay in commencing treatment is deeply regretted.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

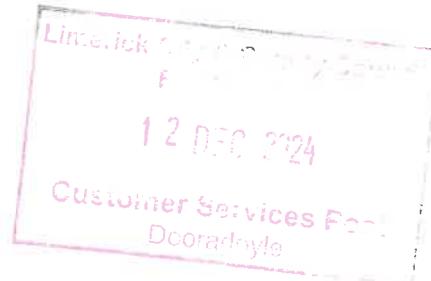
Eoghan Flynn

Private Secretary to the Minister for Health



Ms. Ciara Farrell  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Headquarters  
Limerick City and County Council  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick V94 EH90

Our Ref: DRCD-MO-01313-2024



10 December 2024

Dear Ms Farrell

Thank you for your letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, regarding the resolution adopted at a meeting on 25th November of Limerick City and County Council.

The Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) supports the improvement of non-public rural roads and laneways not usually maintained by local authorities. The Scheme is covered in legislation by the Local Government Act 2001, Section 81 part (3), which provides that;

(3) A road authority may assist by way of the carrying out of works, a financial contribution or otherwise towards the construction or improvement of a non-public road which —

- Provides access to parcels of land of which at least two are owned or occupied by different persons or
- Provides access for harvesting purposes (including turf or seaweed) for two or more persons or
- Shall, in the opinion of the road authority, be used by the public

The 2024 Scheme criteria were amended to ensure more families can now qualify for the Scheme. Eligible road projects are those that involve the construction or improvement of non-public roads which provide access:

- to parcels of land, of which two or more are owned or occupied by different persons, one of which must be engaged in agricultural activities or
- for harvesting purposes (including turf or seaweed) for two or more persons or
- to at least one parcel of land owned or occupied by a person engaged in agricultural activities AND which separately provides access for harvesting purposes (including turf or seaweed) for at least one other person.

In addition, work can be carried out on Amenity Roads, which are non-public roads leading to essential community amenities such as graveyards, beaches, piers, mountain access points, or other tourist/heritage sites.

In April 2024, an amendment to the Scheme was announced which now stipulates that only one landowner must be involved in agricultural activity – however, the road should still provide access to two or more landowners/occupiers. As the Scheme is bound by legislation, local authorities must seek proof of ownership/occupation of land from at least two landowners/occupiers. Proof of agricultural activity is not solely limited to a herd/flock number - it can also refer to the practice of herding cattle, sheep, pigs, horses or poultry in a non-large scale commercial practice and can also include harvesting activity such as peat, seaweed, timber, fruit, vegetables or flowers - again in a non-large commercial scale.

While the Department of Rural and Community Development provides funding, local authorities administer the scheme and are solely responsible for selecting and prioritising eligible road projects. The Department recommends that parcels of land should be at least one hectare in size - however, this is a recommendation only, and local authorities have flexibility in this regard.

I hope that this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Éamonn McCormack  
Programme Manager to Heather Humphreys  
Minister for Rural and Community Development

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**From:** ANNE MARIE CRAWFORD

**Sent:** Tuesday 17 December 2024 12:05

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Resolution agreed by Donegal County Council - Rainwater Harvesting

Dear Meetings Administrator,

I write to inform you that the members of Donegal County Council at their recent meeting resolved to adopt the following motion.

"That Donegal County Council write to the incoming Housing Minister asking for a grant to be considered for rainwater harvesting that would lower demand on current domestic supplies and could be used for flushing toilets, washing cars, power washing and any other use of treated water supplies around dwellings, farms, and industrial settings".

It was agreed to circulate same to all local authorities for their consideration.

Regards,

Anne Marie Crawford

*For Patsy Lafferty  
Meetings Administrator*

**Anne Marie Crawford | Staff Officer**  
Corporate Services, Council Secretariat, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, Co Donegal



Email Disclaimer  
Clásal Séanta Ríomhphoist

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**From:** ANNE MARIE CRAWFORD  
**Sent:** Tuesday 17 December 2024 11:58  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Resolution agreed by Donegal County Council - Restoration of Town Councils

Dear Meetings Administrator,

I write to inform you that the members of Donegal County Council at their recent meeting resolved to adopt the following motion.

*"That this Council write to the leaders of every political party and independent grouping running candidates in the forthcoming General Election urging them to include within their programme for government to fully commit, within the lifetime of the next Dáil to the restoration or creation of Town Councils in every town in this State with a population over 5,000 people".*

It was agreed to circulate same to all local authorities for their consideration.

Regards,

Anne Marie Crawford

*For Patsy Lafferty  
Meetings Administrator*

**Anne Marie Crawford | Staff Officer**  
Corporate Services, Council Secretariat, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, Co Donegal



Email Disclaimer  
Clásal Séanta Ríomhphoist



15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

**Our Ref: January25 – 20/MMC/AC**

Dear Meeting Administrator,

At the January meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution and agreed that this request should be circulated to all Local Authorities:

“That Clare County Council oppose the recent decision by the GAA, whereby children under the age of sixteen will be charged a fee to gain admittance to GAA matches, and that we call on the GAA to reverse this decision as a matter of urgency. It is also proposed that this Notice of Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities across the country.”

Yours sincerely,

Mary M'Mahon  
**Mary McMahon,  
Administrative Officer,  
Corporate Services Department,  
Rural Development Directorate.**

**An Rannóg Seirbhísí Corparáideacha  
An Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt Tualthe**  
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

**Corporate Services Department  
Rural Development Directorate**  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



COMHAIRLE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | CLARE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

Our Ref: January25 – 16/MMC/AC

Dear Meeting Administrator,

At the January meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution and agreed that this request should be circulated to all Local Authorities:

“We request Clare County Council to make urgent contact with the Department of Local Government regarding housing aid for Older People’s Grant in connection with the exclusion of new fossil fuel boilers, oil or gas.”

Yours sincerely,

Mary McMahon  
**Mary McMahon,**  
**Administrative Officer,**  
**Corporate Services Department,**  
**Rural Development Directorate.**

**An Rannóg Seirbhísí Corparáideacha**  
**An Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt Tuaithé**  
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nuá, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

**Corporate Services Department**  
**Rural Development Directorate**  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



## Comhairle Chontae Liatroma Leitrim County Council

Áras an Chontae  
Cora Droma Rúisc  
Contae Liatroma  
N41 PF67

Áras an Chontae  
Carrick on Shannon  
County Leitrim  
N41 PF67

15 January 2025

An Taoiseach,  
Department of the Taoiseach,  
Government Buildings,  
Merrion Street Upper,  
Dublin 2,  
D02 R583

**Our Ref: LCC 2025-0111**

**Re: Voting for our Diaspora**

A Chara

I wish to inform you at the January meeting of Leitrim County Council the members passed the following resolution:

**“That Leitrim County Council calls on the next Government and all the elected members of both Houses of the Oireachtas to pass whatever legislation necessary to hold the referendum, promised by the previous administration, to allow our diaspora to vote in the Presidential Election to be held in November of this year.”**

I look forward to hearing from you in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Kieran Brett**

**Meetings Administrator**  
Email: [kbrett@leitrimcoco.ie](mailto:kbrett@leitrimcoco.ie)



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Re: Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council**

Dear Meetings Administrator

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

It was AGREED to write to the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste to consider that in the formation of the incoming government that the matter of rural and urban isolation and loneliness is directly allocated to a Ministry.

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely

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