

CORRESPONDENCE

July 2025 Council Meeting

- Letter received on 29th May, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Donegal County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the State of Israel Bonds Issuance Programme.
- Letters received on 6th June, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Carlow County Council, outlining resolutions adopted by the Council in relation to the following: (i) Occupied Territories Bill; (ii) Tenant-in-Situ Scheme; and (iii) Paediatric Coeliac Disease Screening.
- Email received on 11th June, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Housing requesting a funding guarantee for the Tenant-in-Situ Scheme for 2025, and to allow Limerick Council the maximum flexibility on how this scheme is operated.”*
- Letter received on 12th June, 2025, from the County Secretary, Galway County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to Affordable Housing.
- Letter received on 13th June, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Donegal County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the Triple Lock.
- Letter received on 16th June, 2025, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“calling on the Government to enact legislation to prohibit the use of smartphones (mobile phones with access to internet and social media) among youths under 16 years of age.”*
- Email received on 17th June, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Transport in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *‘Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Transport to propose that the BusConnects Limerick be implemented and made operational without delay.*

- Email received on 24th June, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *'calling on the Government and the Minister for Health to take decisive action to deliver a new ED hospital for Limerick and the Mid-West Region.'*
 - Letter received on 26th June, 2025, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *'that, Limerick City and County Council liaise with the Department of Housing and the Government calling for the restoration of the No Fault Eviction as the housing emergency spirals out of control and building targets fail to be met.'*
 - Letter received on 27th June, 2025, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *'calling on the Government and the Minister for Health to take decisive action to deliver a new ED hospital for Limerick and the Mid-West Region.'*
 - E-Mail received on 8th July, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister to amend the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme 2016/S.I. No. 619/2023, to allow tenants to purchase their Council house after a period of five years and not a ten-year period as is currently required.
 - E-Mail received on 9th July, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *'that, Limerick City and County Council liaise with the Department of Housing and the Government calling for the restoration of the No Fault Eviction as the housing emergency spirals out of control and building targets fail to be met.'*
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29th May, 2025

Re: State of Israel Bonds Issuance Programme

Dear Meetings Administrator,

I write to inform you that the members of Donegal County Council at their plenary meeting on the 26th of May 2025 resolved to adopt the following motion:

"That this Council is gravely concerned that the Central Bank of Ireland is regulating the Israel Bonds Issuance Programme and, thereby, facilitating the sale throughout Europe of bonds which are funding genocide in Gaza.

This Council notes that,

- i. the bonds, known as Israel Bonds, have, since 1951, raised funds for the Israeli Treasury for use across the Israeli economy including the financing of the apartheid system, the Israeli military and illegal settlements,*
- ii. the bonds are now being advertised as war bonds and are funding the genocide in Gaza.*

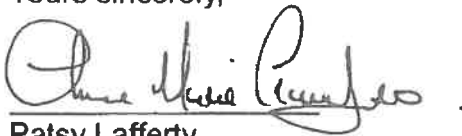
Council further notes that,

- i. in January 2024 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) confirmed the plausibility of the charge of genocide against Israel,*
- ii. in June 2024 the UN's International Commission of Inquiry on Palestine found that Israel's actions in Gaza "constitute the war crimes of wilful killing and mistreatment, and the crime against humanity of extermination"*
- iii. in July 2024 an ICJ ruling declared that Israel is committing the crime of apartheid and its entire regime of military occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal and must end immediately,*
- iv. all institutions are under obligation under international law to prevent genocide and abuse of human rights.*

Council believes that the Central Bank of Ireland must end all complicity in genocide. Council, therefore, calls on the Central Bank of Ireland to immediately end the regulation of the Israeli Bond Issuance Programme."

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

Yours sincerely,

P.P. 
Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Oifigi an Chontae,
Bóthar Átha Í,
Ceatharlach, R93E7R7

County Buildings,
Athy Road,
Carlow, R93E7R7

T: 059 9170300

E: See carlow.ie/contact-us

W: carlow.ie

Our Ref; May 2025 CCC

To whom it may concern,

The following was resolved and agreed by the members at a meeting of Carlow County Council held on the 12th May 2025.

"The international court of justice stated on the 19th of July 2024 that the creation of illegal settlements in Palestinian territories and exploitation of resources is unlawful and illegal under international law.

The international criminal court following an investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity, issued arrest warrants for two Israeli officials, Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant.

The genocide convention imposes a legal obligation on States to take responsible action to contribute towards preventing genocide".

Because of the gravity of the ongoing situation this council will write to Government TDs in Carlow/ Kilkenny, and an Taoiseach and ask them to consider urgently the Occupied Territories Bill without watering it down and without further delays."

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

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Byrne

Meetings Administrator

fbyrne@carlowcoco.ie



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
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CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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Bóthar Átha Í,
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Athy Road,
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T: 059 9170300

E: [See carlow.ie/contact-us](http://carlow.ie/contact-us)

W: carlow.ie

Our Ref; May 2025 CCC

To whom it may concern,

The following was resolved and agreed by the members at a meeting of Carlow County Council held on the 12th May 2025.

"This council calls on the Minister for Housing to reinstate the Tenant-in-situ scheme in full and to restore the cuts to the funding. A copy of this motion should be sent to every Local Authority".

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Byrne', written over a horizontal line.

Fiona Byrne

Meetings Administrator

fbyrne@carlowcoco.ie



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
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T: 059 9170300

E: See carlow.ie/contact-us

W: carlow.ie

Our Ref; May 2025 CCC

To whom it may concern,

The following was resolved and agreed by the members at a meeting of Carlow County Council held on the 12th May 2025.

“That Carlow County Council writes to HIQA, requesting the authority to initiate paediatric coeliac disease screening in Ireland as soon as possible” .

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Fiona Byrne', written over a horizontal line.

Fiona Byrne

Meetings Administrator

fbyrne@carlowcoco.ie

From: Minister Browne's Office
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 12:28 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-01487-2025

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

11th June 2025

RE: HPLG-MBO-01488-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I have been asked by Mr. James Browne, T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to thank you for your recent letter advising of a resolution passed by the members of Limerick City and County Council in connection with funding for the 2025 second-hand acquisitions.

The Department wrote to local authorities on 31 March setting out details of the social housing second-hand acquisitions programme for 2025. The Department is providing €325 million to local authorities in 2025 to buy second-hand properties with a particular focus on tenant-in-situ acquisitions. This is where tenants in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) had received a notice of termination from their landlord. Local authorities were informed of their specific funding allocation which in the case of Limerick City and County Council is €15million.

The letter identified the priority funding areas for 2025 as follows:

- tenancy sustainment of tenant-in-situ
- exits from homeless services (including one beds for housing first need)
- people with a disability and older persons requiring urgent housing responses
- buy and renew acquisitions which tackle vacancy.

These categories are similar to previous years but expanded to include buy and renew acquisitions.

Where tenants in receipt of HAP/RAS have received a notice of termination, local authorities have a range of options at their disposal to consider before determining if an acquisition is the best approach. Such options includes; possible tenancies from the existing social housing stock or approved housing body stock, negotiations with the landlord to see if the existing tenancy can be sustained, or help to secure alternative private accommodation.

The Department appreciates that local authorities may have carried over commitments in respect of refurbishment costs on previous acquisitions. They will need to review their proposals to see if some of these refurbishment works could be factored into their planned maintenance programme going forward. This is particularly important in respect of past tenant-in-situ acquisitions as these houses should already be compliant with rental standards and require little work.

The Department also provides funding to local authorities under the energy efficiency retrofitting programme and planned maintenance / voids funding programme which may be of assistance with some refurbishment costs.ĭ»ž

The funding for second-hand acquisitions is part of almost â,~2 billion in total, which is supporting local authorities and approved housing bodies to deliver new social homes in 2025. The main focus of the social housing programme is to increase the delivery of new homes which will allow local authorities the capacity and the flexibility to deal with emergent need.

It is a matter for local authorities to manage the resources available, assess the various options and determine the optimum solution in each particular case. The criteria that applies to second hand social housing acquisitions in 2025 are largely similar to 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Savage

Private Secretary

Áras an Chontae,
Cruc na Radharc, Gaillimh.
H91 H6KX.

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill, Galway.
H91 H6KX.

Fón/Phone: (091) 509 000
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www.galway.ie

 GalwayCoCo
 GalwayCounty

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✉corpserv@galwaycoco.ie

Tírdhacht
Housing
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✉housing@galwaycoco.ie

Timpeallacht & Tréidhacht
Environment & Veterinary
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✉environment@galwaycoco.ie

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& Seirbhísí Ginearálta
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& General Services
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✉roads@galwaycoco.ie

Acmhainní Daonna
Human Resources
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✉hr@galwaycoco.ie

Mótarcháin
Motor Taxation
☎(091) 509 099
✉motortax@galwaycoco.ie

Clár na dTeighthóirí
Register of Electors
☎(091) 509 310
✉electors@galwaycoco.ie

Seirbhísí Uisce
Water Services
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✉water@galwaycoco.ie

Pobal & Fiontar
Community & Enterprise
☎(091) 509 521
✉community@galwaycoco.ie

Pleanáil
Planning
☎(091) 509 308
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Leabharlann
Library
☎(091) 562 471
✉info@galwaylibrary.ie



CC1-1a-0025 – May 2025 **Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimh**
Galway County Council

JB/tc

12th June 2025

Mr. James Browne,
Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage,
Custom House,
Dublin,
D01 W6XO.

minister@housing.gov.ie

RE: Resolution of Galway County Council – Review of Affordable Housing Policy

A chara,

At the May meeting of Galway County Council, the following resolution was passed:

'I propose that we write to the Minister for Housing to call for an immediate review of the Affordable Housing policy, to facilitate wider development catchment. I also propose that motion is forwarded to all local authorities.'

I would be obliged if you could consider and revert to me with your views on the above Motion so that I can advise the Elected Members.

Please arrange to reply directly to Ms. Jean Brann, County Secretary at
secretary@galwaycoco.ie

Mise, le meas,



Ms. Jean Brann
County Secretary



13th June, 2025

To: Each Local Authority

Re: Dismantling of the Triple Lock

Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

"Do Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, mar mheabhrúchán gur ghlac Comhairle na hEorpa le Dearbhú Seville i mí an Mheithimh 2002, rud a dheimhnigh nach raibh aon bhagairt ar neodracht na hÉireann mar thoradh ar Chonradh Nice, tugtar le fios gur dheimhnigh an Taoiseach a bhí ann ag an am, an tUasal Ahern, do Theach Laighean : "Athdhearbhaíonn an Dearbhú Náisiúnta ceangal na hÉireann le beartas neodrachta agus dearbhaíonn sé: nach bhfuil Éire páirteach in aon ghealltanais comhchosanta: go ndéanfaimid ár gcinneadh ceannasach féin maidir le ar cheart d'fhórsa cosanta na 26 Contae páirt a ghlacadh i dtascanna daonnúla nó bainistíochta géarchéime arna gcur ar bun ag an AE bunaithe ar an Ghlas Triarach ceadaíthe ag na Náisiúin Aontaithe, cinneadh an Rialtais agus glactha leis ag Teach Laighean ".

Tá Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall sásta gur bhain an Dearbhú Náisiúnta Sollúnta le hlonstraimí daingniúcháin de chuid na hÉireann a bhain le Conradh Nice agus gur cláraíodh é ina dhiaidh sin ag na Náisiúin Aontaithe, agus gur athdhearbhaigh rialtas Cowan na gealltanais ina dhiaidh sin tar éis diúltú do Chonradh Liospóin ar dtús in 2008.

Mar sin féin, is mian le Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall a ndíomá a chur in iúl maidir le rún agus polasaí an Rialtais deireadh a chur leis an Ghlas Triarach, ina ndearna an Taoiseach, an tUasal Martin, cur síos air roimhe seo mar "crollár neodrachta na 26 contae".

I bhfianaise an rúin an riachtanas maidir le sainordú ó na Náisiúin Aontaithe a bhaint, aithníonn an Chomhairle seo freagracht na Náisiúin Aontaithe maidir le síocháin agus slándáil idirnáisiúnta a choinneáil agus tosaíocht Chairt na Náisiúin Aontaithe mar dhoiciméad bunúsach de chuid an dlí idirnáisiúnta. Léiríonn an Glas Triarach gealltanais dlíthiúil agus polaitiúil ó stát na hÉireann i leith phrionsabail na Náisiúin Aontaithe. Ag am ina bhfuil méadú ar éagobhsaíocht dhomhanda, iarrann an Chomhairle seo ar rialtas an tSaorstáit an Glas Triarach a chosaint mar chuid lárnach de neodracht na hÉireann agus brú a chur ar iarrachtaí chun síocháin agus taidhleoireacht a chur chun cinn.

Mar sin de tá Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall go láidir i gcoinne polasaí den chineál seo agus geallann siad go ndéanfar teagmháil le gach Comhairle Contae láithreach ag iarraidh orthu seasamh linn agus leis na forais rialtais cuí chun iad a chur ar an eolas faoina bhfreasúra."

Má cheadaítear an rún go ndéanfar é a scaipeadh ar chomhairlí eile taobh istigh den stát –

"Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, recalling that in June 2002 the European Council adopted the Seville Declaration, which confirmed that the Nice Treaty posed no threat to Ireland's neutrality, notes that the then Taoiseach Mr Ahern confirmed to Teach Laighean that: " The National Declaration reaffirms Ireland's attachment to a policy of neutrality and confirms that: Ireland is not party to any mutual defence commitment: that we will take our own sovereign decision on whether 26 Counties defence force should participate in humanitarian or crisis management tasks mounted by the EU based on the Triple Lock of UN endorsement, Government decision and Teach Laighean approval".

Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall is satisfied that the Solemn National Declaration was associated with Ireland's Instruments of ratification of the Nice Treaty and subsequently registered at the UN, while the undertakings were subsequently reiterated by the Cowan government following initial rejection of the Lisbon Treaty in 2008.

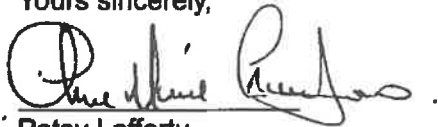
However, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall now wishes to express its dismay at the stated intention and policy of the Government to dismantle the Triple Lock, which the Taoiseach Mr Martin previously described as "the core of 26 counties neutrality".

In light of the intention to remove the requirement for a UN mandate, this Council recognises the responsibility of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security and the primacy of the UN Charter as a foundational document of international law. The Triple Lock represents a legal and political commitment by the Irish state to the principles of the UN. At a time of heightened global instability, this Council calls on the Free State government to safeguard the Triple Lock as a core component of Irish neutrality and to redouble efforts to promote peace and diplomacy.

Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall therefore states its forceful opposition to such a policy and pledges to immediately contact all County Councils requesting them to join us in this course of action and to inform the appropriate government organs of their opposition."

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

Yours sincerely,



P.P.

Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator



11 June 2025

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

Reference Number: DOT-TM25-07832-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., dated 6th June 2025.

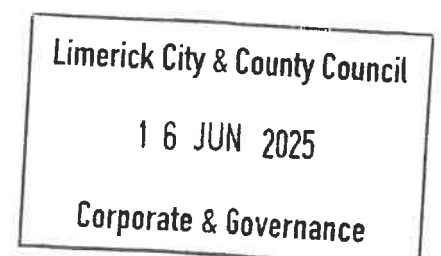
Yours sincerely

Sarah Garry

Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie



From: Ministers Office
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 10:04 AM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: TTAS-MO-02083-2025

Our Ref: TTAS-MO-02083-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

Dear Ciara, thank you for your correspondence in relation to BusConnects Limerick, the content of which has been noted.

As you may be aware, BusConnects is a transformative programme of investment in the bus system, providing better bus services across our cities. It is the largest investment programme in the bus system in the history of the State and is managed by the National Transport Authority (NTA).

In 2023, the NTA carried out an extensive review and public consultation of the bus network in Limerick, in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council, and Bus Á%ireann, and with the specialised expertise of transport designers, Jarrett Walker and Associates. The NTA published the final new bus network for Limerick in December 2023.

The new bus network will enable more people to avail of public transport resulting in increased access to a greater number of schools and workplaces across Limerick city. Overall, circa 41% of residents will live within 400 metres of a high frequency bus route. The NTA intend to start introducing the new network in 2027, subject to funding and resources.

The design of that new network was a necessary prerequisite step in relation to the planning of new bus infrastructure across Limerick city – without clarity of the planned service pattern, it is not feasible to reliably plan the appropriate infrastructure enhancements.

BusConnects Limerick, as set out in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy, envisages the development of continuous bus priority, as far as practicable, on key bus corridors across the city. The NTA intends to procure and appoint a design team to commence work on an overall citywide bus infrastructure plan under BusConnects Limerick. However, the NTA have informed the Minister that they need to increase their personnel resources in order to undertake and manage this programme and that they hope to do later this year. That will allow planning and design work to commence next year on the overall BusConnects Limerick infrastructure plan.

With best wishes,

Gordon Ryan

Private Secretary to Minister O'Brien TD

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

Lárna Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

www.gov.ie/transport

Subject:

FW: [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-04471-2025

From: Ministers Office

Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 11:11 AM

To: Plenary Meeting

24th June 2025

Dear Ms. Farrell ,

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 20th of June 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan Flynn

Private Secretary



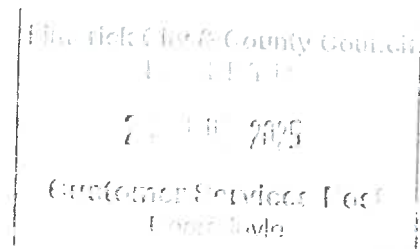
28 June 2025

Limerick City & County Council

26 JUN 2025

Corporate & Governance

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



Reference Number: DOT-TM25-08374-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., dated 20th June 2025.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Garry

Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie



24 June 2025

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

Reference Number: DOT-TM25-08450-2025

Limerick City & County Council

27 JUN 2025

Corporate & Governance

Dear Ms. Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., dated 19th June 2025.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Garry
Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

From: Minister Browne's Office
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 3:18 PM
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-02142-2025

8th July 2025

Ref: HPLG-MBO-02142-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

Thank you for your email to Mr. James Browne, 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,

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Jack Savage

Private Secretary

From: Minister Browne's Office
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 11:47 AM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-02157-2025

9th July 2025

Ref: HPLG-MBO-02157-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

Thank you for your email to Mr. James Browne, 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

Jack Savage

Private Secretary