

## CORRESPONDENCE

### September 2025 Council Meeting

- Email received on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, from Councillor Kieran O’Hanlon, President, Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) in relation to the Local Democracy Task Force.
- Letter received on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, from the County Secretary, Wexford County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the Residential Tenancy Act, 2004.
- Letter received on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, from the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Rural Development Directorate, Clare County Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the Defective Concrete Block Scheme.
- Letter received on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, from Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick, following the opening of Book of Condolence in memory of the late Pope Francis.
- Letter received on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, from the Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *‘that, Limerick City and County Council write to Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail requesting that they investigate the purchase of land adjacent to Annacotty Business Park and the Castleconnell rail line. This would provide an urban train station linking the Annacotty Business Park with Castleconnell, Birdhill and Nenagh and Colbert Station Limerick. Over 2,000 people work in the Annacotty Business Park and this train station would greatly assist employees coming and going to work and reduce congestion on our roads.’*
- Email received on 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne, T.D., 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.”*

- Letters received on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2025, from Corporate Services, Galway County Council – addressed to Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Minister for Health, and Bernard Gloster, CEO, Health Service Executive – outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the HSE Announcement to downgrade Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Letter received on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2025, from the Office of the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning in reply to the following resolution adopted by the Council *“that, Limerick City and County Council call on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to change the current policy in relation to changing the use of a commercial premise, office, shop etc. to residential; at present, you have to leave a premises completely idle for a minimum of 2 years, to gain an exemption in planning when you convert the premises. This barrier should be removed in a housing crisis. We want to bring these premises back into use as soon as possible.”*
- Letter received on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, Galway City Council, enclosing correspondence from Donegal County Council, in relation to Dismantling of the Triple Lock.
- Email received on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting the Department of Social Protection to change the provision of the Carers Leave Act 2001 to remove the time limit of 104 weeks.
- Email received on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting a change to the provision of the Carers Leave Act 2001 to remove the time limit of 104 weeks.
- Email received on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Finance in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Central Bank of Ireland to immediately end the facilitation of the Israeli Bond Issuance Programme.
- Letter received on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from Mr. Pat Crotty, Chief Executive, Vintners’ Federation of Ireland, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“that, Limerick City and County Council calls on local businesses and vintners to actively support the ‘Ask for Angela’ campaign across Limerick – the ‘Ask for Angela’ campaign is a proven initiative designed to help victims of sexual harassment and assault safely seek assistance in public venues).”*

- Letter received on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Offaly County Council – addressed to Mr. James Browne, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and circulated to all Local Authorities – outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- Letters received on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Donegal County Council, outlining resolutions adopted by the Council in relation to (i) Socio-Economic Status and Equality Legislation and (ii) National Affordable Housing Schemes.
- Letter received on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from the Director, National Museum of Ireland, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting that the Ardagh Chalice be loaned from the National Museum of Ireland to Limerick to put on display as an attraction for the duration of the Ryder Cup.
- Email received on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting that “no new onshore wind farm planning applications should be approved until updated national guidelines on wind energy are approved and implemented by the Government.”
- Letter received on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, from the General Secretary, Irish Postmasters’ Union, seeking the Council’s support for a Motion for Government investment in the Irish Post Office Network.
- Email received on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 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 agrees to and calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to relax the current ribbon development rules to allow for the construction of 6 dwellings in a linear arrangement and, where appropriate, that restrictions be set aside entirely for sites within 1 km of an existing settlement boundary once the development is located on a non-regional road with available appropriate sightlines.’*
- Email received on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“calling on the Minister for Justice for an update on the legislation being drafted to amend the Criminal Justice Act, 1994, to ban the wearing of balaclavas and other face coverings at protests where they are used to conceal a person’s identity; and to request that the legislation includes measures to ban balaclavas and face coverings on persons trying to conceal their identity to commit a crime (i) in public places and (ii) while riding scrambler bikes.”*

- Email received on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 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.”*
  - Email received on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2025, from Andrew Moore, Senior Regulatory and Administration Executive, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *‘Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Transport, the Chairperson of the Board of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), and the Chief Executive of TII to call for urgent prioritisation and full delivery of the Rathkeale to Limerick City Greenway in advance of the Ryder Cup in 2027.’*
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**From:** President ailg

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 16, 2025 4:24 PM

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Task Force on Local Government

Dear Meetings Administrator

I write to endorse a motion from Sligo County Council to the effect that *the progress of the Local Democracy Task Force established in June 2025 by the Minister and Minister of State for Local Government might be a standing item on the agenda of your plenary council over the period of activity of the Task Force* which will be well into next year.

Updates on the activity of the Task Force are published on the Task Force pages of the Dept.'s website and will also be conveyed in the weekly bulletins of this Association.

Thank you

Is mise le meas,

*Kieran O' Hanlon*



**Cllr. Kieran O' Hanlon**

**AILG President 2024/2025**

Association of Irish Local Government



*The AILG is a national representative body that represents and supports the role of our elected councillors. We are a strong voice for local communities through effective local government.*

**County Secretary**

MD/ZP

14<sup>th</sup> July, 2025

**Memo to All Local Authorities**

**To Whom It May Concern**

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

*"That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD to amend Section 12 of the Residential Tenancy Act 2004 to eliminate blanket bans on pets in tenancy agreements thereby reducing the number of pets being surrendered and abandoned. If passed, this motion is circulated to all Councils nationwide."*

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

Yours sincerely



**Michael Drea,**  
**County Secretary**  
**e-mail:** [michael.drea@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:michael.drea@wexfordcoco.ie)  
**Phone:** 053 9196260



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

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

Our Ref: July25 – 15/JC/AC

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the July meeting of Clare County Council, the members passed the following resolution and agreed that this request should be circulated to all local authorities:

“Clare County Council calls on the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage, James Browne T.D, to review and amend the terms of the Defective Concrete Block Scheme to allow for applications, where individuals are living long term in supported housing provided by charitable bodies. These are the homes of these individuals & deserve equality of treatment with all other homeowners. If passed, that the motion be circulated to all LA’s.”

Yours sincerely,

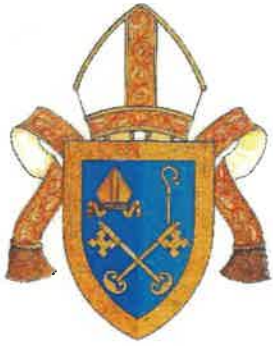
**John Corry,**  
**A/Senior Executive Officer,**  
**Corporate Services Department,**  
**Rural Development Directorate.**

**An Rannóg Seirbhísí Corparáideacha**  
**An Stiúthóireacht um Fhorbairt Tuaithe**

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



**Diocese of Limerick**  
**Our Catholic Community**

Ms. Ciara Farrell  
Corporate Services  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick  
V94 EH90

11<sup>th</sup> July 2025



Dear Ciara,

I write to thank you and all the elected representatives and officials of Limerick City and Council for your expression of condolences on the death of Pope Francis. I very much appreciated receiving also the Book of Condolences which was opened at the Civic Offices.

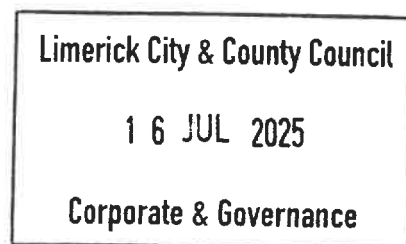
Pope Francis was enormously loved. He was a prophetic figure who spoke to our hearts and minds, a voice of "conscience" that prompted us to go deeper in our reflection and extend our outreach to others. I'm sure his words and deeds live on within us.

Now we have Pope Leo. It seems he is another great figure and we can look forward to his words and deeds to inspire us.

With renewed thanks and warmest regards,

*+ Brendan Leahy*

✠ Brendan Leahy,  
Bishop of Limerick.





Príomhí Fheidhmeannach, Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6

Chief Executive, Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 R1W9.

T 01 703 2454 E [Info@irishrail.ie](mailto:Info@irishrail.ie) W [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)



Ms Ciara Farrell  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services  
Limerick City & County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick  
V94 EH90  
[ciara.farrell@limerick.ie](mailto:ciara.farrell@limerick.ie)

17th July 2025

Dear Ms Farrell,

Thank you for your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> June regarding the purchase of land adjacent to Annacotty Business Park

There is a measure in LSMATS (Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy) RL5 Rail Based Park and Ride to investigate the potential for further Park and Ride facilities where the strategic road network meets high-frequency rail services.

The National Transport Authority (NTA) Park & Ride office assesses the location of strategic park and ride locations to ensure full transport integration. Can I suggest you contact the NTA who may be able to advise if they have progressed assessment of proposals in this specific area in the first instance.

Iarnród Éireann will continue to engage with the NTA and the City and County Council on proposals for the area as they have been doing with the Ballysimon Station proposal and as the NTA undertake further study on the rail transport needs of the wider Limerick area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Meade".

Jim Meade

**Chief Executive**

**From:** Minister Browne's Office  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2025 11:57 AM  
**To:** Customer Services  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-02142-2025

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

22nd July 2025

RE: HPLG-MBO-02142-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I have been asked by Mr. James Browne, T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, to respond to your correspondence regarding the resolution passed by the elected members of Limerick City & County Council in respect of the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme (the Scheme), the content of which has been duly noted.

In respect of the elected member's resolution seeking a decrease in the qualifying period for which a tenant must be in receipt of Social Housing Supports from ten years to five years in order to purchase their house, I would like to draw attention to the Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2023, which came into effect from 29 January 2024.

As well as other changes to the Scheme, these Regulations amended the requirement for joint tenants to have been in receipt of social housing support for ten years each in order to purchase their home, to only one tenant fulfilling the ten year requirement.

The changes made to the Scheme from 29 January 2024 achieve a balance between making it easier for social housing tenants to purchase their home, while also not excessively diminishing local authority social housing stock.

The Department monitors schemes such as this on an ongoing basis to ensure that they remain effective and sustainable. However, I can advise that there are currently no plans to further amend the qualifying period beyond the reduction that was made from 29 January 2024.

Thank you for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Savage

Private Secretary

Áras an Chontae.  
Choc na Radharc. Gaillimh  
H91 H6KX.

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

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[www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

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@GalwayCoCo  
@GalwayCountyCouncil

Seirbhísí Custaiméara  
Customer Services  
(091) 509 000  
[customerservices@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:customerservices@galwaycoco.ie)

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha  
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Títhíocht  
Housing  
(091) 509 300  
[housing@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:housing@galwaycoco.ie)

Pleanáil  
Planning  
(091) 509 308  
[planning@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:planning@galwaycoco.ie)

Timpeallacht & Tréidíocht  
Environment & Veterinary  
(091) 509 510  
[environment@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:environment@galwaycoco.ie)

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agus Aithre Aeráide  
Physical Infrastructure  
and Climate Change  
(091) 509 309  
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Acmhainní Daonna  
Human Resources  
(091) 509 303  
[hr@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:hr@galwaycoco.ie)

Mótarcháin  
Motor Taxation  
(091) 509 099  
[motorfax@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:motorfax@galwaycoco.ie)

Clár na dToghthóirí  
Register of Electors  
(091) 509 310  
[selectors@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:selectors@galwaycoco.ie)

Forbairt Tuaithe agus Pobail  
agus Imeascadh  
Rural and Community  
Development and Integration  
(091) 509 521  
[community@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:community@galwaycoco.ie)

Leabharlann  
Library  
(091) 509 388  
[info@galwaylibrary.ie](mailto:info@galwaylibrary.ie)



## CC1-1a-0025 – July 2025 Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

LK/tc

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Ms. Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Minister for Health,  
Minister's Office,  
Department of Health,  
Block 1, Miesian Plaza,  
50-58 Lower Baggot Street,  
Dublin 2,  
D02 XW14.

[ministers\\_office@health.gov.ie](mailto:ministers_office@health.gov.ie)

### RE: Resolution of Galway County Council – Announcement of HSE to Downgrade Portiuncula Hospital

A chara,

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

*Galway County Council reaffirms its strong support for Portiuncula University Hospital, as recognised under Special Policy Objective H4 of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, and acknowledges PUH's long term strategic importance in the county and beyond as a provider of essential healthcare services and also as a major employer and economic driver in Co Galway.*

*-Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Health and CEO HSE to support PUH's critical role in maternity care provision in the county and to recognise Portiuncula UH's strategic location as the most accessibly located maternity unit in the country just 800 meters off the M6 in providing crucial timely accessible maternity care for mothers infants and families across a wide and rural catchment in County Galway and to communities in Roscommon, Westmeath, Longford, Leitrim, Offaly, North Tipperary and beyond. Restriction of maternity services poses serious risks to women and infants, especially those in rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged areas with poor transport where they are now facing much increased travel times and reduced local access to crucial maternity services.*

*-Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Health and CEO HSE to seek development of an immediate plan for reinstatement of high quality safe maternity services at PUH, with allocation of the necessary funding & resources for full implementation.*

*-Galway County Council asks the Minister for Health if she will commission a fully independent external review of maternity services across the county and comprehensively examine risk assessments and consequences of any maternity care downgrade in the wider area served including the ability of receiving maternity units to safely absorb additional patient load, given capacity, staffing, and infrastructure challenges.*

*A copy of this motion is sent to the Oireachtas Joint Health Committee, all Oireachtas Elected Representatives for the area, and 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. Liadhan Keady, County Secretary at [secretary@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:secretary@galwaycoco.ie)

Mise, le meas,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liadhan Keady', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Ms. Liadhan Keady**  
**County Secretary**

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

Áras an Chontae,  
Prospect Hill, Galway.  
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[www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

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@GalwayCountyCouncil

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Tithíocht  
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Plánaíocht  
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agus Aithriú Aeráide  
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agus Imeascadh  
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Library  
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## CC1-1a-0025 – July 2025 Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

LK/tc

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Mr. Bernard Gloster,  
CEO's Office, HSE,  
Dr. Steevens' Hospital  
Steeven's Lane,  
Dublin 8,  
D08 W2A8

[ceo.office@hse.ie](mailto:ceo.office@hse.ie)

### RE: Resolution of Galway County Council – Announcement of HSE to Downgrade Portiuncula Hospital

A chara,

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*Galway County Council reaffirms its strong support for Portiuncula University Hospital, as recognised under Special Policy Objective H4 of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, and acknowledges PUH's long term strategic importance in the county and beyond as a provider of essential healthcare services and also as a major employer and economic driver in Co Galway.*

*-Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Health and CEO HSE to support PUH's critical role in maternity care provision in the county and to recognise Portiuncula UH's strategic location as the most accessibly located maternity unit in the country just 800 meters off the M6 in providing crucial timely accessible maternity care for mothers infants and families across a wide and rural catchment in County Galway and to communities in Roscommon, Westmeath, Longford, Leitrim, Offaly, North Tipperary and beyond. Restriction of maternity services poses serious risks to women and infants, especially those in rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged areas with poor transport where they are now facing much increased travel times and reduced local access to crucial maternity services.*

*-Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Health and CEO HSE to seek development of an immediate plan for reinstatement of high quality safe maternity services at PUH, with allocation of the necessary funding & resources for full implementation.*

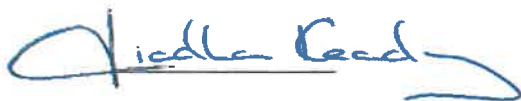
*-Galway County Council asks the Minister for Health if she will commission a fully independent external review of maternity services across the county and comprehensively examine risk assessments and consequences of any maternity care downgrade in the wider area served including the ability of receiving maternity units to safely absorb additional patient load, given capacity, staffing, and infrastructure challenges.*

*A copy of this motion is sent to the Oireachtas Joint Health Committee, all Oireachtas Elected Representatives for the area, and 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. Liadhan Keady, County Secretary at [secretary@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:secretary@galwaycoco.ie)

Mise, le meas,



**Ms. Liadhan Keady**  
**County Secretary**

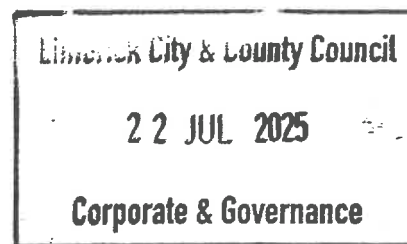


**Oifig an Rúnai Aire**  
Office of the Minister of State

21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

Ms. Ciara Farrell  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick

Ref No HPLG-MOSC-00544-2025



Dear Ms. Farrell,

I refer to your correspondence of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in connection with exempted development planning regulations related to change of use from commercial to residential, which has been referred to Mr John Cummins TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning.

I wish to explain that while the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Act of 2024) was enacted in October 2024, it is in the process of being commenced and the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (Act of 2000), and its associated Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (Regulations of 2001) remain in force until the relevant sections of the Act of 2024 are commenced and the corresponding sections of the Act of 2000 are repealed.

A review of the current Exempted Development Regulations is ongoing and a wider public consultation on exempted development regulations is due to be undertaken



shortly. Members of the public, state bodies and all other parties will be able to make submissions in writing as part of the consultation process. You can check for on-going public consultations on the Government website at <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultations/>

The Government cannot pre-empt the outcome of any consultation and therefore no decision has been made in respect of any revisions to current exempted development provisions. This includes exemptions for change of use from former commercial premises to residential use. Any update to Exempted Development Regulations will require positive resolutions by both Houses of the Oireachtas before it can be signed into law.

I trust that this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eoin Colleary', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Eoin Colleary

Private Secretary to Minister of State John Cummins

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



8 August 2025

TO: Each Local Authority

**Re: Galway City Council Resolution**

A Chara,

At the July meeting of Galway City Council held 14 July 2025, the Members passed the following resolution under Agenda Items 8 Correspondence, 8(a). Donegal County Council: Dismantling of the Triple Lock.

"It was proposed that a letter of support issue in relation to the motion passed by Donegal County Council (copy attached) calling to safeguard the Triple Lock component of Irish neutrality. It was further agreed to circulate same to all authorities for their consideration."

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

Mise, le meas,



Martha Duddy,  
Administrative Officer,  
Corporate Services.

Cc. Cllr. Niall McNelis.

**[www.GalwayCity.ie](http://www.GalwayCity.ie)**

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Meáin/ Media: [Communications@GalwayCity.ie](mailto:Communications@GalwayCity.ie)

Fax: +353 (0)91 567493

**Fáiltítear roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge.  
Correspondence in Irish is welcome.**

Halla na Cathrach, Bóthar an Choláiste, Gaillimh,  
H91 X4K8

City Hall, College Road, Galway, H91 X4K8



13<sup>th</sup> 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 hionstraimí 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 "croílár 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.*

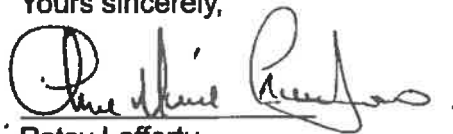
*However, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall now wishes to express its dismay at the stated intention and policy of the Government to dismantle the Triple Lock, which the Taoiseach Mr Martin previously described as "the core of 26 counties neutrality".*

*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

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From: Caroline Howell  
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 2:56 PM  
To: Customer Services; Plenary Meeting;  
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Emailing: Ciara Farrell Limerick City Council-Carers Leave .pdf

Dear Ms. Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence to Dara Calleary T.D, Minister for Social Protection, regarding Carer Leave Act 2001.

As the matter you have raised is proper to the Department of Children, Disability, Equality, the Minister has passed your correspondence to Ms. Norma Foley T.D., Minister for Children, Disability, Equality, Integration & Youth, for her attention and direct reply.

Yours sincerely

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Patricia Steacy  
Private Secretary

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**From:** Minister Foley's Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 10:14 AM  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]DCDE-MFO-02630-2025

13th August 2025

Ciara Farrell

Dear Ciara ,

On behalf of Norma Foley TD, Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your letter on behalf of Limerick County Council concerning the Carers Leave Act.

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

Yours sincerely,

Cian Warfield

Private Secretary to Minister Norma Foley TD

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**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 10:28 AM  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]FIN-MO-02886-2025

Our Ref: FIN-MO-02886-2025

Ms Ciara Farrell

Meetings Administrator

Limerick City and County Council

[plenarymeeting@limerick.ie]

Dear Ms Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter to the Minister for Finance, Mr Paschal Donohoe TD, in relation to a resolution adopted by Limerick City and County Council.

Yours sincerely

Niamh Murtagh

Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance

# Vintners' Federation of Ireland

**Pat Crotty** Chief Executive



L4/ec  
13<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Ms Ciara Farrell  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services  
Limerick City & County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick City**

Via Email: [plenarymeeting@limerick.ie](mailto:plenarymeeting@limerick.ie)

## **“Ask for Angela Campaign”**

Dear Ms Farrell,

I refer to your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> August regarding the above.

The ‘Ask for Angela’ Campaign has been successfully launched in a number of counties around the country and we have supported our members in those launches.

I will forward your letter to our Chairpersons and Secretaries in Limerick City and County and I am sure they will liaise with you in due course to show their support for this campaign.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pat Crotty', written over a horizontal line.

**Pat Crotty  
Chief Executive**



**Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí**  
**Offaly County Council**

Áras an Chontae, Bóthar Charleville,  
An Tulach Mhór, Contae Uíbh Fhailí, R35 F893

Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road,  
Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 F893

T. 057 934 6800 | F. 057 934 6868  
E. [customerservices@offalycoco.ie](mailto:customerservices@offalycoco.ie)

[offaly.ie](http://offaly.ie)

Mr. James Browne, TD  
Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage  
Leeson Lane,  
Dublin 2,  
D02 TR60  
[minister@housing.gov.ie](mailto:minister@housing.gov.ie)

14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear Minister Browne,

At the July meeting of Offaly County Council, the members passed the following resolution:

On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey,

"That this council asks the Minister for Housing to include Part 5 houses in the "Tenant Purchase Scheme." Also to write to every council to seek support of same"

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

Yours faithfully

Evan Fennell  
Meetings Administrator,  
Corporate Services,  
Offaly County Council



Ceantar Bardasach Thulach Mhór  
Municipal District of Tullamore  
T. 057 935 2470

Ceantar Bardasach Bhiorra  
Municipal District of Birr  
T. 057 912 4900

Ceantar Bardasach Éadan Doire  
Municipal District of Edenderry  
T. 046 973 1256





14<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

**Re: Socio Economic Status & Equality Legislation**

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:-

*"Go dtacaíonn Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall le #cuiran10úleis (#addthe10th), comhghuaillíocht atá ag iarraidh go mbeidh stádas socheacnamaíoch aitheanta mar an 10ú bhforas de leithcheal a dhéantar, i reachtaíocht um chomhionannas na 26 Contae, a dtugtar An tAcht um Stádas Comhionann agus An tAcht um Chomhionannas Fostaíochta, Nollaig 2021, orthu. Iarrann muid ar an Rialtas i mBaile Átha Cliath reachtaíocht a leagan síos don athrú rithábhachtach seo gan a thuilleadh moille".*

*"Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall supports #addthe10th an alliance which seeks to have socio- economic status recognized as the tenth ground of discrimination in the 26-Counties equality legislation, namely the Equal Status Act and the Employment Equality Act, 1 Dec 2021. We call on the Government in Baile Átha Cliath to legislate for this important change without further delay".*

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

Yours sincerely,

*P. Lafferty*  
P. Lafferty  
Patsy Lafferty  
Meetings Administrator



14<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

**Re: National Affordable Housing Schemes**

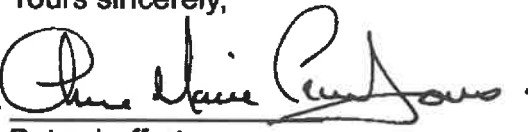
Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

*"That this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to express concern over the exclusion through ineligibility of County Donegal from key national affordable housing schemes, including cost rental initiatives, and to request an urgent review of the eligibility criteria and geographic rollout of such schemes to ensure they are extended to rural and peripheral counties like Donegal, where housing need is significant but often underrepresented in national policy. If passed, I would ask that this motion is circulated to all other local authorities.*

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

Yours sincerely,

PP. 

Patsy Lafferty  
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick

27<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Subject: Limerick City and County Council – Ardagh Chalice Loan Request**

Dear Ciara Farrell,

Thank you for your recent correspondence and for your interest in exhibiting objects from the National Collection as part of the upcoming sporting event in Limerick. We appreciate your enthusiasm and commitment to showcasing Ireland's rich cultural heritage during such a significant occasion.

After careful consideration, we regret to inform you that the Ardagh Chalice cannot be made available for loan. This decision is based on the stringent security requirements associated with the object, and more importantly, the current condition and considerable fragility of certain elements of the chalice. Due to these factors, the National Museum of Ireland is not in a position to loan the Ardagh Chalice for exhibition at any location in the future.

However, we are pleased to share that we have been working closely with archaeologists involved in the development of the Adare bypass. As a result, we would be delighted to facilitate a loan of significant material and recent archaeological discoveries from this area for exhibition in a suitable venue during the Ryder Cup period. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with relevant councillors or staff from the Local Authority to explore this further at a time that suits.

Additionally, we are collaborating with the staff of Limerick City and County Council and the Hunt Museum to facilitate a major loan of Limerick Treasures to Limerick next year.

We understand this is a joint initiative between the Hunt Museum and Limerick City Museum, and we are enthusiastic about supporting this important cultural project.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss any of the above in more detail.



Lynn Scarff  
Director  
National Museum of Ireland  
[directorsoffice@museum.ie](mailto:directorsoffice@museum.ie)

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**From:** Minister Browne's Office  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2025 2:42 PM  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-02936-2025

28th August 2025

Ref: HPLG-MBO-02936-2025

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

# IRISH POSTMASTERS' UNION

Pier 19, 6/8 Usher's Island, Dublin 8, D08 KOTE.

Telephone: 01-677 6863 Email: [postunion@postmasters.ie](mailto:postunion@postmasters.ie)

Web: [www.communityandpostoffice.ie](http://www.communityandpostoffice.ie)



25<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear Cathaoirleach,

As General Secretary of the Irish Postmasters' Union, I am writing to seek your valued support for Irish Post Offices and the crucial role we play in our Communities across Ireland.

We respectfully request your support in raising a motion at your next Council meeting, calling on the Government to commit to investing €15 million annually in the Irish Post Office Network. Your support is essential to securing this crucial investment, ensuring Post Offices can continue delivering vital services and promoting community well-being and local economic development.

Post Offices are key drivers of economic renewal, maintaining the circulation of money and delivering essential local services. By doing so, we help create stronger, more vibrant Communities that can better support residents and local businesses.

The Irish Post Office Network processes approximately 84 million transactions each year, amounting to a total value of €14 billion, including €7 billion in welfare cash payments. Additionally, we provide essential banking and financial services to micro and small businesses, particularly in areas where traditional banks have withdrawn. Approximately 540 Post Offices nationwide operate in areas without any banks within a 5km radius, underlining our vital role in supporting local business growth and Community resilience.

In many communities, Post Offices are the only providers of essential government services, particularly for vulnerable individuals and families who may not have digital literacy or access to online platforms. Our role in combating social exclusion and providing reliable face-to-face services is widely recognised and highly valued.

The closure of Post Offices significantly impacts Communities, severely affecting marginalised individuals, reducing access to critical services, and weakening local economies. Your influential voice is vital in advocating for a strong and sustainable Post Office Network.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting to explore ways we can collaborate further.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support and commitment to our Communities.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Tormey  
General Secretary  
Irish Postmasters' Union

Limerick City & County Council

28 AUG 2025

Office of the Mayor

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**From:** Minister Browne's Office  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 2, 2025 4:38 PM  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-02995-2025

2nd September 2025

Ref: HPLG-MBO-02995-2025

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

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**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 2, 2025 3:23 PM  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-09837-2025

Ms. Ciara Farrell

**Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-09837-2025**

Dear Ms. Farrell,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding face coverings.

An Garda Síochána's policing approach at public gatherings and protests is predicated on keeping people safe, preventing any anti-social and criminal behaviour and traffic management, where appropriate.

An Garda Síochána continues to provide an effective policing response to known and impromptu protests to ensure public safety.

While there are fundamental human-rights issues involved in the right to protest/right to assembly, these are not absolute and are subject to common law and statute exceptions.

Protests create operational challenges for An Garda Síochána based on the number of persons protesting, the location of protests and actions at the protest. The health, safety and welfare of all, including Gardaí, requires significant assessment.

With regard to face coverings, you are referring to an amendment to the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994, which proposes to give Gardaí power to direct a person to remove a face covering where it is being worn in public. This amendment is contained in the General Scheme of the Criminal Law and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2025, which was approved for drafting by the Government in May.



The power applies only when Gardai reasonably suspect the face covering is used to intimidate or facilitate criminal activity or hinder the investigation of criminal offences. Legitimate uses, such as cultural, medical, or expressive coverings, are unaffected, unless linked to public order concerns.

The provision's narrow focus on public safety protects protest rights while addressing harmful conduct to ensure the safety of all involved.

I trust this information will be of use.

Yours sincerely,

Emma McHugh

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

Please note that if the issue raised in your correspondence is deemed more appropriate to another organisation, such as another Government Department or Agency, your correspondence will be forwarded to that organisation for attention in accordance with the provisions of the Department of Justice Privacy Statement, which can be accessed [here](#).

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**From:** Minister Browne's Office  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 4, 2025 3:29 PM  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-02157-2025

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

4th September 2025

RE: HPLG-MBO-02157-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I refer to your letter to Mr. James Browne T.D. Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which was received by this Office on 23 June 2025 and relates to the May meeting of Limerick County Council which asks for a ban on no fault evictions.

The former Government agreed on 7 March 2023 that the 'Winter Emergency Period' under the Residential Tenancies (Deferment of Termination Dates of Certain Tenancies) Act 2022 would come to an end on 31 March 2023, with deferred tenancy terminations taking effect over a staggered period from 1 April to 18 June 2023 as planned and legislated for under that Act.

When the former Government decided, in March 2023, not to amend the Residential Tenancies (Deferment of Termination Dates of Certain Tenancies) Act 2022, enacted the previous October, a number of issues informed that decision, including reports from industry professionals on rental market trends.

In January 2023, a Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI) report outlined that its agents believe that 40% of sales instructions in Q4 2022 were from landlords selling their investment property. In addition, 8 out of 10 SCSI agents believed buy-to-let second hand rental units being sold at the time would not be replaced in the rental market in the next two years. In addition, a Sherry Fitzgerald report – Irish Residential Market Review - Q4 2022, Outlook 2023 - cited that approximately 21,000 property transactions last year involved investors selling their property, with just 7,500 of those bought by investors, involving a net loss of 13,500 from the rental stock.

The Government remains focused on growing the supply of much needed rental accommodation by keeping existing landlords in the market and attracting new landlords, while ensuring strong and balanced tenancy protections for both tenants and landlords.

On 10 June 2025, the Government approved policy proposals for stronger tenancy protections for new tenancies created (i.e. first time tenancies between parties) from 1 March 2026.

The Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2025 was signed into law on 19 June 2025. The Act came into operation on 20 June 2025 to immediately extend and expand the operation of Rent Pressure Zones (RPZs) to cover the entire country until 28 February 2026.

Further legislation is being developed as a priority to provide stronger tenancy protections and allow rent resetting for new tenancies created (i.e. first time tenancies between parties) from 1 March 2026. Rent resetting will only be allowed where the previous tenant (if any) terminated the tenancy or where there was a breach of tenant obligations or where the dwelling no longer suits the accommodation needs of the tenant household. From 1 March 2026, the rent for a new rental dwelling can also be set to market value upon the commencement of the first tenancy of that dwelling.

A national rent control will apply to all tenancies (new and existing) from 1 March 2026. With the exception of new build apartments (i.e. those subject of a commencement notice lodged on/after 10 June 2025 with their planning authority), annual rent increases in all tenancies will be capped at the level of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) up to a maximum of 2%. For new build apartments, annual rent increases will be capped at the level of inflation (CPI).

Together, these policies will provide greater certainty for the rental sector, as part of a suite of measures to boost the supply of new homes and secure and grow the availability of rental accommodation. The aim to keep landlords in the rental market and to grow their investments.

The stronger tenancy protections to apply to new tenancies created (i.e. first time tenancies between parties) from 1 March 2026 will significantly enhance the current provision of tenancies of unlimited duration with the introduction of tenancies of minimum duration (TMD), involving rolling 6-year tenancies by a smaller landlord (with 3 or fewer tenancies) with a new tenant. In limited circumstances during a 6 year TMD, a smaller landlord will be allowed to end a tenancy - for example, where the landlord/family member (spouse/civil partner/parent/child) wishes to occupy the dwelling or where the landlord is experiencing hardship and requires vacant possession. A smaller landlord will also be allowed to terminate a tenancy using the limited grounds under section 34 of the Residential Tenancies Acts 2004 to 2025 (the RTA) at the end of each 6-year period while the tenancy continues to exist.

Larger landlords (with 4 or more tenancies) will not be permitted to terminate a new tenancy created (i.e. first time tenancies between parties) from 1 March 2026 on grounds of intention to sell, landlord/family member occupation or change of use. A provision allowing for the necessary vacation of a rented dwelling (to protect tenants' health and safety) during substantial refurbishment/renovation works will be considered.

All landlords will retain the right to terminate a tenancy where there is a breach of tenant obligations or where the dwelling is no longer suitable to the accommodation needs of the tenant household.

For existing tenancies (i.e. those created on/before 28 February 2026), landlords will continue to have the right to terminate a tenancy in line with the provisions of the Residential Tenancies Acts 2004 to 2025 as they applied on 28 February 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Savage

Private Secretary

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**From:** INFO

**Sent:** Tuesday 16 September 2025 14:58

**To:** Farrell, Ciara <ciara.farrell@limerick.ie>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]TII25-133139 - Rathkeale to Limerick City Greenway

**Dear Ms. Farrell,**

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 September 2025 regarding the above. Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII's) position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

TII has provided funding of €350,000 to Limerick City and County Council in 2025 to progress the Rathkeale to Adare and Patrickswell (€200,000) and the Patrickswell to Colbert Station (€150,000) sections of the Limerick Greenway. Full details of the 2025 Greenways and Active Travel grant allocations to Limerick City and County Council are available on TII's website at the following [link](#).

Both of these schemes are at Phase 1: 'Concept and Feasibility' of the TII's Project Management Guidelines. Timelines for completion of these projects are currently unknown, due to the uncertainty associated with progressing such projects through the statutory process. Therefore, it will not be possible to achieve full delivery of the Rathkeale to Limerick City Greenway in advance of the 2027 Ryder Cup.

Grant funding in relation to greenway projects for 2026 is currently under review. TII will give consideration to the funding of greenway schemes throughout the Country, including the Limerick Greenway, having regard to the level of funding available to TII for greenways generally and the many competing demands for these resources.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

**Yours sincerely,**

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**Andrew Moore**

**Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive**