

**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2025**

- Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 from Directroute (Limerick) Limited and email dated 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that this Council writes to Direct Route Limerick and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to request automatic number plate recognition be installed at Limerick toll for adapted vehicles as it is in place in every other toll in Ireland.
- Email dated 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Housing, that children who are languishing in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 months, should be entitled to counselling. Funding must be made available as down the line these children could have mental health issues.
- Emails dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Health and 7<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 from the Office of the Minister of State for Older People and Housing in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Health for an update on the review of Emeis Ireland - previously known as Orpea, that was to be initiated immediately following the documentary on private nursing homes aired on RTE on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to address all issues.
- Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2025 from the Office of the Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that this Council write to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless, stating that this District condemn any future attempt by the Government to reinstate the €3,000 college contribution fee for students given the increased financial burden that this will place on students and their families.
- Email dated 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that this Council write to the HSE and the Department of Justice requesting them to develop a joined-up and proactive taskforce to effectively deal with the current drug problems experienced widely across Limerick Metropolitan District.



**DirectRoute (Limerick) Ltd**

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Aedin Foley,  
Meetings Administrator,  
Corporate Services,  
Limerick City & County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick, V94EH90.

24<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**Re: Limerick Tunnel PPP – Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)**

Dear Aedín,

I refer to your letter dated 30th April 2025 addressed to Mr. Declan Cahill regarding the request to implement automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) at the Limerick Toll for adapted vehicles, in line with other toll locations across Ireland.

Please note that I have recently assumed the role of General Manager for Direct Route (Limerick), and I kindly ask that all future correspondence on such matters be directed to me.

In response to your query, I can confirm that ANPR technology is already in place at the Limerick toll. We are currently in the final stages of testing an enhanced system that will utilise this technology to further improve the tolling process for adapted vehicles. We anticipate that this updated system will be fully operational by the end of Q3 this year.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed by:  
.....kevin.McGrath.....  
**Kevin McGrath** C088FD474B5...  
General Manager  
Directroute (Limerick) Ltd

**CC: KarlHeinz Fichtner (Jacob Consultants) {via e-mail only}**

## Carroll, Siobhan

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**From:** INFO <Information@tii.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 20 August 2025 09:00  
**To:** Metro Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]TII25-131374 - Automatic number plate recognition at Limerick Toll

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A chara,

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 April 2025 regarding the above. At the outset, I wish to apologise for the delay in responding.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) acknowledges receipt of the resolution adopted by the Metropolitan District of Limerick at its meeting on 22 April 2025, concerning the request to install Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology at the Limerick Toll for adapted vehicles, in line with systems in place at other toll locations across Ireland.

TII understands that Direct Route (Limerick), the PPP operator managing the Limerick Tunnel on behalf of TII, has provided the Council with a formal response outlining the presence of ANPR infrastructure at the location and detailing its plan to deploy an enhanced system specifically tailored to support adapted vehicles. TII is informed that this system is expected to be operational by the end of Q3 2025.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Suzanne Cahill**  
Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive

**From:** Metro Meeting <metromeeting@limerick.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 30 April 2025 18:26  
**To:** INFO <Information@tii.ie>  
**Cc:** Metro Meeting <metromeeting@limerick.ie>  
**Subject:** Resolution - April Meeting of Metropolitan District of Limerick

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A Chara,

Please see letter attached in relation to Resolution adopted at Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2025.

**From:** Minister Browne's Office <[ministerbrowne-housing@corr.cloud.gov.ie](mailto:ministerbrowne-housing@corr.cloud.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 25, 2025 4:19 PM  
**To:** Metro Meeting <[metromeeting@limerick.ie](mailto:metromeeting@limerick.ie)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-02484-2025

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25th July 2025

[metromeeting@limerick.ie](mailto:metromeeting@limerick.ie)

Ref: HPLG-MBO-02484-2025

Dear Meeting Administrator Ms. Foley,

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,

Jack Savage  
Private Secretary.

## Carroll, Siobhan

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**From:** Ministers Office <noreplymo-health@corr.cloud.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 28 July 2025 08:36  
**To:** Metro Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Your Correspondence

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28th July 2025

Dear Ms. Foley,

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill T.D., I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence in regard to Resolution adopted at Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

As this matter is more appropriate to Minister O'Donnell the Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Older People, we have forwarded your query to Minister O'Donnell's Office for a direct reply to be issued to you.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan Flynn

Private Secretary

## Carroll, Siobhan

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**From:** Minister of State O'Donnell <noreplymoskod-health@corr.cloud.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 7 August 2025 15:12  
**To:** Metro Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HEA-MOSKOD-00391-2025

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7th August 2025

HEA-MOSKOD-00391-2025

Ms. Aedin Foley  
metromeeting@limerick.ie

Dear Ms. Foley,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence to Kieran O'Donnell TD Minister of State for Older People and Housing regarding a resolution adopted at the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Your request will be brought to the attention of the Minister at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Dempsey

Private Secretary to Minister Kieran O'Donnell T.D.

Minister of State for Older People and Housing

**From:** Minister of State O'Donnell <[noreplymoskod-health@corr.cloud.gov.ie](mailto:noreplymoskod-health@corr.cloud.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 25 August 2025 14:14  
**To:** Metro Meeting <[metromeeting@limerick.ie](mailto:metromeeting@limerick.ie)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HEA-MOSKOD-00391-2025

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25th August 2025

HEA-MOSKOD-00391-2025

Dear Ms Foley,

On behalf of the Minister for Older People and Housing, Kieran O'Donnell, T.D., thank you for your correspondence in relation to the RTE Investigates programme which aired on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Poor care, mistreatment, neglect or any other form of abuse of any person living in a long-term residential care centre is completely unacceptable. Minister O'Donnell is deeply concerned at the level of non-compliance in evidence from the distressing footage aired during this programme.

Minister O'Donnell expects the highest standards of care are upheld for each and every resident of our nursing homes at all times. The Minister has also emphasised the importance of registered providers adequately supporting their staff. Effective governance and management arrangements ensure staff are equipped to deliver person-centred care to residents.

Since the RTE Investigates programme was broadcast on 4th June, both the office of the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill T.D., and the office of the Minister for Older People, Kieran O'Donnell T.D., have been engaging with HIQA and the Chief Inspector to discuss regulatory activity in relation to the nursing homes featured in the broadcast. Minister O'Donnell expects the HIQA Chief Inspector to utilise all powers available to them.

HIQA has supplied two reports to the Minister. The first interim report, published 17<sup>th</sup> June, covered the two nursing homes featured in the documentary, and the second provided an overview of all nursing homes in the Emeis Ireland Group and was published on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The second report comprises a comprehensive review of HIQA's regulatory oversight of the 25 named designated centres for Older People within the Emeis Ireland Group and the immediate regulatory response to the broadcast whereby HIQA conducted unannounced inspections and required immediate assurances.

The content and findings of both reports are being considered, including the need for additional regulatory powers in respect of nursing homes, with actions to be taken as a matter of priority.

Overall Government has set out an ambitious and achievable set of commitments to improve the nursing home sector and expand services for older people, which will be delivered over the term of this Government including:

- A national policy on adult safeguarding will be introduced for the health and social care sector, as set out in the Programme for Government. This policy will commit to the development of adult safeguarding legislation for the sector, including nursing homes. It is at an advanced stage and the Ministers intend to bring it to Government as a matter of priority.
- A framework for safe nurse staffing and skill mix is being developed for nursing homes.
- The remaining provision (Section 68) of the Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023 will be commenced shortly providing additional powers for HIQA/Chief Inspector with regard to serious patient safety incidents in nursing homes.
- The Chief Inspector was given a new function in the 2024 Act to collect, share and publish key operational data in relation to nursing homes to inform future planning and policy for the sector. Regulations are being prioritised to enable this provision and a pilot survey to inform these Regulations is being tested with the sector this summer.
- HIQA are undertaking a review of their regulatory processes and will be presenting these to the Minister and Department of Health with recommendations. This review will include such elements as how to further strengthen the monitoring of leadership, culture, management and governance in designated centres.
- A plan for additional public nursing home bed capacity will be published. The Department of Health, alongside the HSE, is currently developing a new public Long-Term Residential Care Additional Capacity Plan, which will be published in 2025.
- New design standards for long-term residential care settings for older people across all sectors will be created, describing what good building design looks like for long-term residential care settings for older people.
- Ownership structures will be reviewed to enhance transparency and strengthen accountability in the long-term residential care sector. Carrying out an evaluation of the implications of complex corporate ownership structures against current regulatory powers will identify the required regulatory reforms.
- The government has reiterated its well-established commitment to the development of the statutory home care scheme as a matter of priority in the 2025 Programme for Government.
- The Programme for Government commits to strengthening the nursing home sector by increasing funding for the Nursing Homes Support Scheme (NHSS), also known as Fair Deal. Investment in Budget 2025 was €67.6 million, this followed on from an increase in 2024 of €45 million.
- The Government established an independent Commission on Care for Older People. The Commission is charged with examining the provision of health and social care services and supports for older people and with making recommendations to the Government for their strategic development, including long term residential care.

As Minister with special responsibility for Older People, the welfare of residents is at the forefront of Minister O'Donnell's and government's concerns. The Minister is very conscious of the impact this broadcast will have on the residents, their families and staff of the nursing homes in the broadcast and the residents, families and staff of other nursing homes and wishes to acknowledge the committed, compassionate and dedicated care staff and providers operating in nursing homes across Ireland.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Dempsey,  
Private Secretary to Kieran O'Donnell T.D.  
Minister of State for Older People and Housing.



Aedín Foley  
Meetings Administrator  
Limerick City & County Council

1 August 2025,

Dear Ms Foley,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding higher education costs, the student contribution and student supports ahead of academic year 2025/26.

It is important to note that no decisions have yet been taken around what degree of state subvention toward the student contribution fee may be available in the upcoming college year. In Budget 2025, a temporary reduction in the student contribution fee was included as part of cost-of-living measures. However, temporary reductions, while helpful in the short term, are uncertain and are not a long-term solution.

I have outlined some of the budgetary challenges arising from the fact that central Government have indicated that no cost-of-living package will be available this coming year. I have inherited a budget from last year; however, I will have my first opportunity to set out my own budget including student supports this October. I have committed to doing everything possible to get the best possible outcome for students during those budget negotiations. Unfortunately, ahead of the budget, it is simply not possible to predict or announce what support measures the budget may include.

I am aware of the challenges facing students and the need for the progressive implementation of measures to address costs as a barrier to education. Ahead of the next Budget, it is a priority for me to explore the most effective ways to support students in managing the cost of education through sustainable measures. I am currently considering a range of options aimed at enhancing support for students across the education system.

It is also recognised that costs are not limited to the student contribution or other registration fees; students encounter other costs such as fuel, food, and accommodation, as well as specific course-related expenses like books and materials. No decisions have been made regarding policy choices, and I am open to hearing the views of students and



their families. Your suggestion contributes meaningfully to this ongoing dialogue, and I am grateful for your engagement.

Ahead of Budget 2026, I will publish an options paper which will identify costs and potential impacts of various policy options aimed at reducing the cost of tertiary education. This paper will inform the discussion and help to identify the key policy priorities to support students ahead of Budget 2026. The goal is to continue to strengthen our support framework and promote access to education for all.

While I cannot confirm specific items that will be included in the next Budget, options to support students and reduce financial barriers will be key considerations for me as part of Budget negotiations.

I hope this is helpful in clarifying the position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Lawless T.D." followed by a stylized surname.

James Lawless T.D.  
Minister of Further and Higher Education,  
Research, Innovation and Science.

## Carroll, Siobhan

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**From:** Ministers Office <noreplymo-justice@corr.cloud.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 5 August 2025 15:41  
**To:** Metro Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-05876-2025

**Categories:** [SharePoint] This message was saved in 'Council > Metropolitan District Meetings Administration (CS-3.2-METMAD) > Metropolitan Meetings 2024 2029 (009) > CNL-CLSMAD-MPD-2025 > 09 Monthly Meeting 15th September 2025'

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Aedín Foley

metromeeting@limerick.ie

**Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-05876-2025**

Dear Aedín Foley,

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 May to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan and for the notification of your resolution dated 19 May, in relation to measures to address the current drug problems experienced in Limerick.

I acknowledge the issues you raised and the devastating impact that drugs can have on communities. This Government is committed to building safe and secure communities through the type of multi-agency cooperation you describe.

A key principle of the Report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland is that community safety requires coordinated action among multiple agencies, working in partnership with An Garda Síochána and, crucially, with communities themselves. The Commission recommended the establishment of national and local structures to bring together Departments and State agencies involved in harm prevention.

To that end, Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) are being established to replace and expand upon the work of Joint Policing Committees. These Partnerships will bring together a broad range of stakeholders, including local councillors, An Garda Síochána, residents, community and business representatives, education providers, and statutory agencies such as the HSE, Tusla, and local authorities.

Each LCSP will be required to develop and implement a tailored community safety plan, taking a strategic and coordinated approach to addressing local issues. The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024, which commenced on 2 April 2025, provides the legislative basis for these Partnerships.

Section 114 of the Act provides for the making of regulations to formally establish the LCSPs. Officials in this Department are working with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to finalise these regulations, which are expected to be completed shortly. The LCSPs will be established as soon as practicable thereafter in each local authority area, including in Limerick.

This partnership approach was successfully demonstrated in pilot initiatives in Waterford, Longford, and Dublin North Inner City since 2021. These pilots were independently evaluated, and the findings are informing the national rollout.

The Dublin North Inner City Community Safety Plan, launched on 22 September 2023, addressed similar issues to those raised in your resolution. It included 50 actions across five priority areas and established effective grassroots coordination with state and community services, including detached youth workers, An Garda Síochána, local drug and alcohol programmes, and Dublin City Council.

The Gardaí have advised me that they are carrying out a range of both of high-visibility and covert operations on an ongoing basis to support public safety in Limerick.

Limerick is also one of three pilot sites for An Garda Síochána's front line deployment of Body Worn Cameras. The use of body-worn cameras is intended to increase public confidence in policing responses, by enabling Gardaí to record incidents as they occur and provide evidence of how a particular incident unfolded, providing greater transparency, promoting accountability, and deterring criminal activity.

I hope this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Emma McHugh

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

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