

**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2025**

- Email dated 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that this District write to the current Minister of Agriculture, Martin Heydon, to urge him to support Stout's Law, a legislative campaign advocating for stricter animal cruelty laws, particularly in cases of unethical back-yard breeding and puppy farming.
- Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that this District writes to the Department of Justice and to the Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan to invite them to come and brief this Council on future resourcing of policing in the Limerick Metropolitan District for the lifetime of the current government.
- Letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport in reply to Notice of Motion from Members that this District write to the Minister for Arts, Media, Communications, Culture and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan, expressing our collective support for the retention, extension, and expansion of the Basic Income for the Arts (BIA) pilot scheme beyond 2025.

**From:** Minister Heydons Office <[ministerheydonnoreply-agriculture@corr.cloud.gov.ie](mailto:ministerheydonnoreply-agriculture@corr.cloud.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 24 September 2025 09:02  
**To:** Customer Services <[customerservices@limerick.ie](mailto:customerservices@limerick.ie)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]DAFM-MHO-02456-2025

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Ms. Aedín Foley

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

24th September 2025

Reference No: DAFM-MHO-02456-2025

Dear Ms. Foley,

I would like to acknowledge your recent correspondence dated 17/09/2025 to Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

I will bring your correspondence to the Minister's attention as soon as possible. In the interim I have forwarded your correspondence for the attention of relevant Department officials.

Yours sincerely,

Walsh, John Thomas  
Minister's Office



Limerick City & County Council

07 OCT 2025

Corporate & Governance

Ms. Aedín Foley  
Corporate Services  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick  
V94 EH90



02 October 2025

Minister's Reference: DJE-MD-00516-2025

Dear Ms. Foley

Thank you for your email to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Mr Jim O' Callaghan. I am responding to you on behalf of the Minister.

A key principle of the Report of Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland is that community safety requires multi-agency cooperation working in partnership with An Garda Síochána and crucially with communities themselves. The Commission's report recommended the establishment of national and local structures to bring together Departments and State agencies involved in harm prevention to promote community safety.



Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) will replace and build upon the good work of the Joint Policing Committees, supplementing this by bringing together a broader range of relevant stakeholders including local councillors, An Garda Síochána, local residents, community representatives, business and education representatives, and a range of statutory agencies including the HSE, Tusla and each local authority.

The objective is to bring the relevant bodies, including the Gardaí, together with communities in a collaborative manner, by focusing on the concerns identified and prioritised by local people.

Each newly established LCSP will be required to develop and implement its own tailored community safety plan. The Safety Partnerships will take a strategic approach to their work so that issues arising can be dealt with in a coordinated manner and addressed collectively by relevant service providers in partnership with the community.

The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024, commenced on 2 April 2025, provides for the establishment of LCSPs, which will operate at each local authority level.

The regulations for the LCSPs came into operation on Monday, 30 June. This now paves the way for a total of 36 partnerships to be established across the country with partnerships in each local authority administrative area. Members have been appointed to two Safety Partnerships and further appointments will be made in the coming days and weeks. The first Safety Partnership meeting was held in Wexford on 30 September 2025.



A top priority for the Minister is to get more Gardaí on our streets through increased recruitment and appropriate civilianisation where possible. The Programme for Government commits to recruiting at least 5,000 Gardaí in the coming five years. As we strengthen An Garda Síochána, we will see more Gardaí visible in our communities tackling and preventing crime.

The Department is advised by Garda authorities that as of 31 August, the latest date for which figures are available, there are 585 Gardai Assigned to Limerick Division. Of these Gardaí, 32 are Community Gardaí, and a further 30 are assigned to roads policing. The Division is supported by 73 Garda staff, a 50% increase since 2015. This increase in Garda staff numbers means that as well as new Gardaí assigned to the Division, additional Gardaí can be redeployed from administrative to operational policing duties, where their training and policing expertise can be used to best effect.

An Garda Síochána have a range of targeted operations in place to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour in our cities, including:

Operation Táirge, which is targeting Retail Theft,

Operation Tara tackling street level drug-dealing, and

An Garda Síochána can also issue Anti-Social Behaviour Warnings to adults and children and can apply for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) before the District Court. The Programme for Government contains a commitment to enact legislation to combat anti-social behaviour, including enhancing the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Warnings (ASBW)s and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

The Government are taking a number of ongoing actions to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, including:

Getting more Gardaí on our streets through increased recruitment;



- Introduction of Local Community Safety Partnerships around the country, to develop Community Safety Plans for every area.
- Continued expansion of youth justice and youth diversion measures.
- Garda body-cams in three pilot locations (Dublin, Waterford, Limerick) with national roll-out to follow
- €1 million provided in 2025 for local authorities to apply for Community CCTV.
- Plans to ban face coverings at protests
- Passing legislation which will make it easier for Gardaí to apply for ASBOs.

The Department is advised by the Garda authorities that An Garda Síochána are currently working on a new CCTV Strategy which will outline how CCTV infrastructure utilised by Gardaí can be modernised and integrated with other CCTV infrastructure throughout the State. It is hoped that implementation of a modernised CCTV platform for An Garda Síochána can commence in 2026, subject to funding through the National Development Plan.

I trust the above is of use.

Yours sincerely,

*Emma McHugh*

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**Emma McHugh**  
Private Secretary to the  
Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration



Ms. Aedín Foley  
[metromeeting@limerick.ie](mailto:metromeeting@limerick.ie)

03 October 2025

Our Ref: CHG-MO-01327-2025

Dear Ms. Foley,

Thank you for your communication in relation to the motion passed by Metropolitan District of Limerick regarding the Basic Income for the Arts Pilot Research Scheme (BIA).

The Programme for Government commits to assessing the Basic Income for the Arts pilot research scheme to maximise its impact. I have announced an extension of six months to February 2026 to allow for further assessment of the pilot data and to engage in stakeholder consultation to provide an evidence base for Government to make decisions on next steps.

Consultation is ongoing including a Consultative Committee which draws from across Government. I launched an online public consultation which closed on 5 September, over 17,000 submissions received, of which 97% were in favour of BIA being continued. A sectoral stakeholder forum also took place on 10 September with around 200 attendees from both resource organisations and artists represented.

The pilot is underpinned by a comprehensive research programme. I recently published a report examining the first 24 months of the scheme which found that BIA recipients (compared to those not in receipt of the BIA):

- a. are 6 percentage points more likely to have worked in the arts
- b. spend on average 11 weekly hours more on their creative practice
- c. are 14 percentage points more likely to have completed new works in the previous six months
- d. invest more financially in their practice
- e. are better able to afford basic necessities and have higher life satisfaction
- f. are 15 percentage points less likely to have felt downhearted or depressed
- g. are 16 percentage points less likely to have experienced anxiety

A cost-benefit analysis paper has also just been published. It shows that the BIA produced over €100m in social and economic benefits and for every €1 invested in the pilot society received a return of €1.39. It also finds that recipients' arts-related income increased by over €500 per month on average. Audience engagement with the arts generated an estimated €16.9 million in social value over the three pilot years.

No decisions on a successor scheme have yet been made. A Government decision will be required on a successor scheme to the pilot, and I intend to bring forward proposals for a permanent intervention following Budget 2026, assuming funding for a successor is secured. I have made it clear that I am in favour of a permanent scheme being put in place.

I trust that this information is beneficial.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Clarke

Darren Clarke  
Private Secretary