

CORRESPONDENCE

November 2025 Council Meeting

- Letter received on 18th September, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Carlow County Council – addressed to An Taoiseach and circulated to all Local Authorities - outlining resolution adopted by the Council opposing any increase in College fees.
- Email received on 23rd 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 requests the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 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 25th September, 2025, from the Department of the Taoiseach 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.
- Emails received on 30th September, 2025, from (a) the Office of the Minister for Mental Health and (b) the Office of the Minister for Finance in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“that Limerick City and County Council write to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill, T.D, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health, Mary Butler, T.D., in support of the IACP’s call for increased investment in counselling and psychotherapy in Budget 2026.”*
- Email received on 2nd October, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *‘calling on the Ministers for Agriculture and for Forestry to provide an appropriate Scheme to compensate for the loss of their livelihoods suffered by landowners due to Ash Dieback disease, and that support for this Motion be sought from sister Authorities nationally.’*
- Email received on 2nd October, 2025, from the Office of the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *‘Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister of State at the Department of Education requesting that any person, regardless of age, be allowed to drive school buses under contract by Bus Éireann once they hold the relevant qualification and meet their Health requirements.’*
- Letter received on 6th October, 2025, from the Meetings Administrator, Roscommon County Council – addressed to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and circulated to all Local Authorities – outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister to waive development fees in certain circumstances where Commencement Notices were served.

- Email received on 13th October, 2025, from the Office of the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *'Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister of State at the Department of Education requesting that any person, regardless of age, be allowed to drive school buses under contract by Bus Éireann once they hold the relevant qualification and meet their Health requirements.'*
- Further letter received on 15th October, 2025, from the Department of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *"that, Limerick City and County Council write to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill, T.D, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health, Mary Butler, T.D., in support of the IACP's call for increased investment in counselling and psychotherapy in Budget 2026."*
- Email received on 15th October, 2025, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *'calling on the Government and Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, T.D., to take decisive action to deliver a new ED hospital for Limerick and the Mid-West Region.'*
- Letter received on 16th October, 2025, from Corporate Services, Galway City Council, outlining resolution adopted by the Council supporting the immediate inclusion of Commercial Bus Operators in the Child Leap Card Scheme, providing free bus travel for children under nine years of age.
- Further Email received on 16th October, 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 and the Garda Commissioner to re-establish the Drug Unit in County Limerick.
- Email received on 16th October, 2025, from the Minister for Transport in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to *'write to the Minister for Transport, the Chairperson of the Board of Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Chief Executive of Transport Infrastructure Ireland calling for urgent prioritisation and full delivery of the Rathkeale to Limerick City Greenway in advance of the Ryder Cup in 2027.'*
- Further correspondence received on 17th October, 2025, from the Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *'calling on the Ministers for Agriculture and for Forestry to provide an appropriate Scheme to compensate for the loss of their livelihoods suffered by landowners due to Ash Dieback disease, and that support for this Motion be sought from sister Authorities nationally.'*
- Letters received on 22nd October, 2025, from the County Secretary, Wexford County Council, outlining resolutions adopted by the Council (i) endorsing the End Discrimination in Inheritance Tax (EDIT) campaign; and (ii) calling for the reformation of the Dog Breeding Establishments Act, 2010, to incorporate 'Stout's Law' into the Act.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Oifigí 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

12th September, 2025.

**Mr. Michael Martin, T.D.,
An Taoiseach,
Department of the Taoiseach,
2, Merrion Row,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Taoiseach,

At a meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 8th September 2025,
the following Notice of Motion was adopted by the members:-

Carlow County Council agree to write to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, and to the Taoiseach, expressing this Council's opposition to any increase in college fees and the Government to ensure to maintain the Grant in the upcoming budget.

I would be obliged if you could give consideration to the members request.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Fiona Byrne,
Senior Executive Officer/
Meetings Administrator.**

From: Minister Browne's Office
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:37 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-02936-2025

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

23rd September 2025

RE: HPLG-MBO-02936-2025

Dear Ms Farrell,

I refer to your correspondence of August 7^h to Mr James Browne, TD and Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage regarding the resolution passed by Limerick City and County Council with regards to the revision of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines.

Firstly, I want to thank you and the elected members for your correspondence and raising the concerns contained therein.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) is currently undertaking a focused review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines. The review is addressing a number of key aspects of the Guidelines including noise, setback distance, shadow flicker, community obligation, community dividend and grid connections.

The Department, in conjunction with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE), which has primary responsibility for environmental noise matters, has been working to advance guidance on the noise aspect of the Guidelines, which is highly technical in nature. The two Departments have been engaging on proposals regarding the measurement and assessment of noise from wind turbines to ensure they are robust and fit for purpose having regard to, inter alia, the revised 2030 target to generate up to 80% of our electricity from renewable sources.

Further to this engagement, DCEE, in the context of its environmental noise remit, appointed noise consultants in May 2023 to inform any amendments to the noise aspect of the Guidelines. This work is now substantially complete.

The Department, in conjunction with DCEE, will make any further changes to the draft Guidelines which are deemed necessary or appropriate in the wake of this work to ensure that the finalised Guidelines, once issued, are fit for purpose to provide guidance in line with renewable energy and climate targets, whilst having appropriate regard to the impacts of wind energy development, including in relation to noise annoyance.

The evolving policy and technical context including the new Planning and Development Act 2024 (the 2024 Act), and the recent revision of the National Planning Framework (NPF) reinforces the need to ensure that the finalised Guidelines, once issued, are fit for purpose.

In addition to this work, and in line with EU Directive requirements, a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is being carried out on the draft Guidelines as part of the review process. In this regard, the Department intends to undertake a public consultation on updated draft Guidelines as part of the SEA process whereby all interested parties will have an opportunity to submit observations on the draft Guidelines. Finalised Guidelines will be prepared following detailed analysis and consideration of the submissions received during the consultation phase.

The Department notes the commitment in the recently published *Programme for Government 2025 – Securing Ireland’s Future* to prioritise the publication of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines, having regard to international best practice and standards. In light of this commitment, the Department is working towards concluding the finalisation of review of the Guidelines as a matter of priority, having regard to the intended public consultation and the finalisation of associated reforms and reviews including the revision of the NPF.

When finalised, the revised Guidelines will be issued under section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended or, subject to commencement of the Planning and Development Act 2024, as a National Planning Statement, as appropriate. The current 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines remain in force, pending the finalisation of the review. The Department has no plans to place a moratorium on planning applications for wind energy developments pending the finalisation of the revised Guidelines.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Savage

Private Secretary



27 September 2025

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

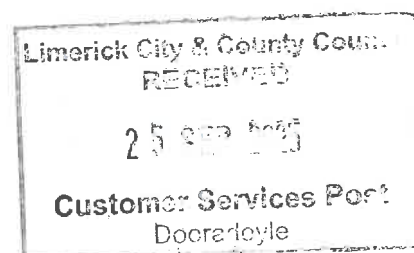
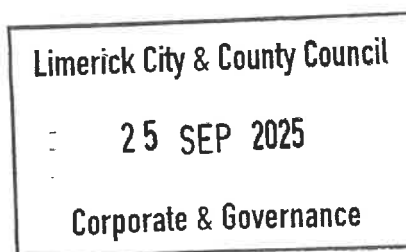
Reference Number: DOT-TM25-12558-2025

Dear Ms Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D.

Yours sincerely

Jake O'Donnell
Department of the Taoiseach
Telephone: 01 619 4021
Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie



From: Minister of State Butler
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HEA-MoSB-00919-2025

30th September 2025

HEA-MoSB-00919-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell

On behalf of Mary Butler TD, Minister for Mental Health, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence on behalf of Limerick City and County Council concerning IACP Call for increased investment in counselling and psychotherapy in Budget 2026.

As the issues raised come under the remit of the Department of Education and the Department of Finance, I have asked those Departments to consider the proposal and get back to you directly.

Kind Regards

Lorraine O'Hara

Minister Butlers Office

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:00 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FIN-MO-04897-2025

Our Ref: FIN-MO-04897-2025

Ms Ciara Farrell

Meetings Administrator

Limerick City and County Council

Dear Ms Farrell

The Minister for Finance, Mr Paschal Donohoe TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence regarding Support of IACP's call for increased investment in Budget 2026, which was forwarded by the Office of the Minister of State for Mental Health, Ms Mary Butler TD, for direct reply to you,

Yours sincerely

Niamh Murtagh

Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance

From: Plenary Meeting

From: Minister Heydons Office
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:09 AM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]DAFM-MHO-02551-2025

Ms. Ciara Farrell

Limerick City and County Council

2nd October 2025

Reference No: DAFM-MHO-02551-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I would like to acknowledge your recent correspondence dated 30/09/2025 to Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

As this issue is a matter for Minister Healy-Rae, I have forwarded your correspondence to his office for their attention and direct reply to you.

Yours sincerely,

BiancaÂ Casado
â€ŽMinisterâ€™s Office

From: Minister of State – Special Education
Sent: Thursday 2 October 2025 13:19
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]EDU-MOSSE-03520-2025

Ms. Ciara Farrell

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Ref: EDU-MOSSE-03520-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence to the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion, Mr. Michael Moynihan TD regarding the retirement of age of school bus drivers.

Enquiries are being made about this matter from senior officials and an answer to your query will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Errity

Private Secretary to Michael Moynihan TD

Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Date: 25th September 2025

Re: Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council

Dear Minister

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

To write to the Minister for Local Government to request that development fees be waived for all applicants who served a commencement notice prior to the required deadline in 2024. Some applicants served the notice within the required timeframe, but failed to submit the required waiver form, resulting in them receiving an invoice for development charges. Many applicants were unaware of the need to complete the form, despite meeting all other guidelines of the scheme.

It was also agreed that this motion is circulated to all other Local Authorities.

At the request of the Council, I would be obliged to receive your reply to this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Karen Hanley
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Roscommon County Council
Email: meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:03 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-11975-2025

Ms. Ciara Farrell

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-11975-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your correspondence dated 30th September 2025, in relation to a request for the Drug Unit in Limerick to be reestablished, which is receiving attention.

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](#).



01 October 2025

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

Reference Number: DOT-TM25-12967-2025

Limerick City & County Council

06 OCT 2025

Corporate & Governance

Dear Ms Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., dated 23rd September 2025.

Yours sincerely

Jacob O'Donnell
Department of the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

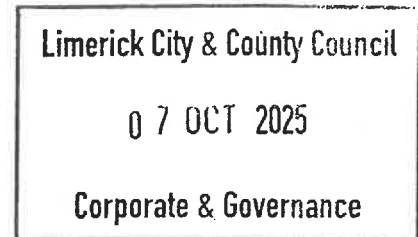


2nd October 2025

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



Reference No: DAFM-MHR-01237-2025



Dear Ms. Farrell,

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your recent correspondence dated 30/09/2025 on behalf of Limerick City and County Council to Michael Healy-Rae T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

I will undertake to bring your correspondence to the attention of the Private Secretary as soon as possible. In the interim, I have forwarded your correspondence for the attention of relevant Department officials.

Yours sincerely,

Evelyn Groark
Minister of State's office
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Minister
Michael Healy-Rae
Aire Stáit
Minister of State

Áras Talmhaíochta, Sráid Chíll Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 WK12
Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12
T +353 1 607 2199 | minister.healyrae@agriculture.gov.ie
www.agriculture.gov.ie

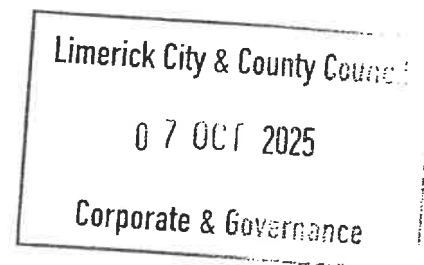


3 October 2025



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

Reference Number: DOT-TM25-13037-2025



Dear M. Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., dated 30th September 2025.

Yours sincerely

Christina Downey
Department of the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

From: Corporate.Services
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 3:34 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HQCSO_1-44439/25

HQCSO_1-44439/25

Dear Ms. Farrell,

On behalf of the Assistant Principal, C Byrne, Corporate Services Office, please be advised that your correspondence to the Commissioner on 2025 has been received.

Your correspondence has been forwarded to the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Southern region who has responsibility for policing in your area, for their consideration.

Please contact the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Southern region, An Garda Síochána, Angelsea Street Grada Station, Cork City T12 K244, AssistantCommissioner_South@garda.ie should you have any further queries on this matter.

Sent on behalf of Assistant Principal C. Byrne, Office of Corporate Communications.



Seirbhísí Corparáideacha | Corporate Services



Garda HQ, Páirc an Fhionnuisce, Baile Átha Cliath 8,
Garda HQ, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8.



www.garda.ie

Ag Coinneáil Daoine Sábháilte Keeping People Safe.

From: AssistantCommissioner_South
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 3:59 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HQCSO_1-44439/25

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I am directed by the Assistant Commissioner, Southern Region to acknowledge your correspondence to the Office of the Garda Commissioner dated 20th September 2025, which was subsequently forwarded to this office for attention.

Your correspondence has been forwarded to the Office of the Chief Superintendent, Limerick, who has operational responsibility for all policing matters in your area of concern. A member has been requested to liaise with you, and investigate the matters raised in your correspondence.

Please note that the Divisional Office, Limerick, is the appropriate channel in which to engage with. Should you choose to contact them directly, please find contact information hereunder;

Limerick Division:

- Address - Henry Garda Station, Henry Street, Limerick City, V94 VY64
- Telephone No- 061-212400
- Email Address- Henry Street DV@garda.ie

A report in to the matter has been requested by this office in early course.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Dunne

Oifigeach Cléireachais | Clerical Officer

Réigiún an Oirthir | Regional Office Southern Region



Regional Office, Anglesea Street Garda Station, Anglesea Street
Ireland, T12 K244



www.garda.ie

Ag Coinneáil Daoine Sábháilte Keeping People Safe

From: Minister Browne's Office
Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 11:58 AM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-03477-2025

9th October 2025

Ref: HPLG-MBO-03477-2025

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



9 October 2025

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

Limerick City & County Council

10 OCT 2025

Corporate & Governance

Reference Number: DOT-TM25-13037-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell

Further to my acknowledgement of October 3rd, a copy of your correspondence has been forwarded to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, James Browne, T.D., for attention and direct reply.

Yours sincerely

Christina Downey

Department of the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

From: Henry_Street_DV
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 1:03 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: Correspondence to Garda Commissioner Kelly dated 20th September 2025

LI_MISC-444439/25

Dear Ms. Farrell

Re: Correspondence to Garda Commissioner Kelly dated 20th September 2025

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence sent to Garda Commissioner Kelly dated 20th September 2025, the contents of which are noted.

As Chief Superintendent of the Limerick Division, I am committed to “Keeping People Safe” working in partnership with our communities and stakeholders to identify problem areas that require action and put in place asserted policing response to address these concerns.

The Limerick Division have a dedicated Divisional Drugs Unit which I can confirm are extremely active. I would encourage members of the public to report any drug related issues / suspicions to their local Garda Station or alternatively via the Garda Confidential Line at 1800 666 111 and this information will be actioned from my office.

With regards to the Drug Units in County Limerick being reestablished, this remains under constant review with members of my senior management team. The reestablishment of any specialised unit is dependent on additional Garda resources being allocated to the Limerick Division, and resourcing needs at that time between community engagement and crime functional areas.

If you require any information in the future regarding policing concerns for the Limerick Division please email my office at henry_street_dv@garda.ie

Regards

Sent on behalf of Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, Limerick Division by



Shane Hayes

Teideal an Phoist | Job Title: Garda

Rannóg Oibre | Work Section: Chief Superintendent's Office



An Garda Síochána, Sraith Anraí, Luimneach
An Garda Síochána, Henry Street, Limerick



www.garda.ie

From: Minister of State – Special Education
Sent: Monday 13 October 2025 18:03
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]EDU-MOSSE-03520-2025

Ms. Ciara Farrell

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Ref: EDU-MOSSE-03520-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I refer to your recent correspondence regarding the retirement age for school bus drivers.

The School Transport Scheme is a significant operation managed by Bus Áireann on behalf of the Department of Education and Youth.

The retirement age for school bus drivers has been set by Bus Áireann at 70 years of age, which also applies to all Bus Áireann road passenger services.

The policy and criteria also apply to drivers nominated by private operators who operate services as part of the School Transport Scheme, provided they hold the requisite license and satisfy an annual medical examination until they retire at age 70.

The Road Safety Authority, under the remit of the Department of Transport, committed to reviewing the upper age limit of drivers as it relates to larger vehicles/school buses. This review is now complete.

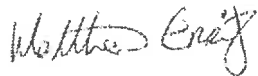
Under the new Programme for Government, a commitment has been made to *"Carry out an independent assessment on the feasibility of removing the exclusion of drivers aged over 70 from the School Transport Scheme"*. My Department continues to engage with both the Department of Transport and Bus Áireann to advance this commitment.

To address such persistent issue, a taskforce was established which is chaired by the Department of Transport.

The Department of Transport has advised that the aim of the taskforce is to work collaboratively to identify contributing factors to the recruitment issues and put forward recommendations and measures to create a pipeline of workers to address these issues. In line with the Department of Transport PfG commitment, this taskforce is currently examining all challenges and opportunities to ensure a fully resourced transport workforce, such as drivers, mechanics, and craftworkers. All factors impacting issues such as recruitment, training and retention will be considered as a part of the taskforce's work programme.

Bus Áireann has actively sought to recruit more contractors and drivers for the School Transport Scheme. A national and local media campaign was launched earlier this year to attract professional drivers. Further information can be found at: [Bus Áireann | Becoming a School Transport Provider](#)

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Errity

Private Secretary to Michael Moynihan T.D

Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion



14 October 2025

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

Reference Number: DOT-TM25-12967-2025

Dear Ms Farrell

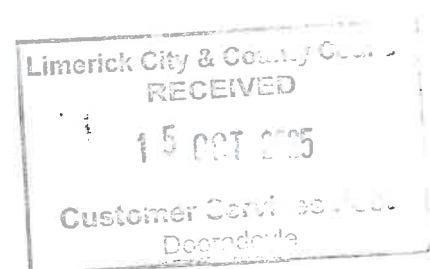
Further to my acknowledgement of October 1st, a copy of your correspondence has been forwarded to Minister of State, Mary Butler, T.D., who has special responsibility for Mental Health, and to the Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe, T.D., for attention and direct reply.

Yours sincerely

Christina Downey
Department of the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie



From: Ministers Office
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 4:04 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-04471-2025

HEA-MO-04471-2025

15th October 2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

Thank you for your submission on the National Development Plan and health services in the wider Mid-West region.

This Government is fully committed to improving services in the Mid-West region. There has been significant investment to increase capacity at University Hospital Limerick (UHL). A package of wide-ranging measures is being implemented which are aimed at increasing capacity as well as reforming the health system in the Mid-West, including increased staffing levels and further implementation of safe staffing.

Investment in the hospitals in the region has increased from €370 million in 2019 to over €689 million in 2024. The UHL budget has increased from €265 million to over €507 million in the same period. This investment has enabled staffing across the region to grow by 42% from 4,140 Whole Time Equivalents (WTE) in 2019 to 5,873 WTE in April of this year. Almost €142.2 million in capital investment was drawn down in the region between 2020 and 2023.

Since January 2020, 182 new beds have opened in acute hospitals in the Mid-West region with 140 of these beds in UHL. The Minister was delighted to officially open the first of two planned 96-bed blocks at UHL this week, with a commitment to deliver 572 new inpatient beds in the region between 2020 and 2031.

In May 2024, HIQA was requested by the then Minister for Health to conduct a review of urgent and emergency care in the mid-west region with the primary objective of ensuring safe quality acute care in the region.

On 30 September, HIQA published its independent and expert review of urgent and emergency healthcare services in the HSE Mid-West Region.

The HIQA report clearly identifies that the lack of sufficient acute inpatient beds in UHL and the Mid West region is the core issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

The report presents three options for how to best address the capacity gap in the Mid-West:

- Option A: expansion of capacity at UHL on the Dooradoyle site;
- Option B: the extension of the UHL hospital campus to include a second site in close proximity under a shared governance and resourcing model;
- Option C- the development of a Model 3 hospital in HSE Mid-West, providing a second emergency department (ED) for the region.

The Report, advice and supporting documentation are being considered in full, and the Minister will report back to Government as soon as possible.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Eóghan Flynn

Private Secretary to the Minister for Health



**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council

16th October, 2025.

Minister Darragh O'Brien,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2.
D02 TR60

Email: minister@transport.gov.ie

Re: Galway City Council Resolution

Dear Minister O'Brien,

I wish to advise that at the October Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 6th October, 2025, the Members passed the following resolution:

"Extension of Free Fares for Under-9s to Commercial Bus Operators

That Galway City Council supports the immediate inclusion of Commercial Bus Operators (CBOs) in the Child Leap Card Scheme, which provides free bus travel for children under nine.

Council notes:

CBOs are an essential part of Ireland's public transport network, already delivering the Young Adult Leap Card and the Department of Social Protection's Travel Pass.

Their exclusion from the under-9 scheme creates unfairness, particularly for rural families who depend on them, and risks a two-tier bus system.

Extending the scheme would cost just €1 million, a modest sum that would support families during the cost-of-living crisis and encourage sustainable travel habits among children.

Therefore, Galway City Council calls on the Minister for Transport and the National Transport Authority to:

1. Urgently include CBOs in the Child Leap Card Scheme.
2. Ensure a fair and consistent transport policy that treats all children equally, regardless of geography or bus service used.

Cont'd...

www.GalwayCity.ie

Seirbhísí Custaiméara/ Customer Service:

+353 (0)91 536400

Rphost: SeirbhisDoChustaimeiri@GalwayCity.ie

Email: CustomerService@GalwayCity.ie

Meáin/ Media: 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



Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

-2-

Recommendation:

That this motion be circulated to all city and county councils for endorsement and forwarded to the Minister for Transport for urgent consideration."

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

Le gach dea ghuí,

Martha Duddy,
Administrative Officer,
Corporate Services.

Cc. Councillor Clodagh Higgins, Galway City Council.

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:57 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-11975-2025

Ms. Ciara Farrell

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-11975-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 September to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan, regarding the resolution from Limerick City and County Council about the Garda Síochána Drug Unit in County Limerick. I am responding to you on the Minister's behalf.

I note that you have also directed your request to the Garda Commissioner. The establishment of any Garda unit is an operational matter for the Commissioner who, under Section 33 of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024, determines the distribution of Garda personnel throughout the State.

The Minister has no role in these independent functions and is unable to direct the Commissioner on the deployment of resources.

I am advised that, as of the end of August 2025 (the latest date for when figures are available), there were 17 Garda members of all ranks assigned to the Limerick Divisional Drugs Unit. This is an increase of almost 21.5% since the end of 2015, when there were 14 members assigned.

I trust the above information is of use.

Yours sincerely,

Emma McHugh

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Thursday 16 October 2025 10:40
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: TTAS-MO-04502-2025

Our Ref: TTAS-MO-04502-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

Thank you for your recent correspondence in relation to the request from Limerick City and County Council calling for the urgent prioritisation and full delivery of the Rathkeale to Limerick City Greenway in advance of the Ryder Cup in 2027, the contents of which I have noted.

As Minister for Transport, I have responsibility for overall policy and exchequer funding in relation to greenways. The planning, design and construction of individual National and Regional Greenways is a matter for Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), in conjunction with the relevant local authority.

My officials have advised Greenway schemes are currently being progressed between Rathkeale and Patrickswell and Patrickswell to Colbert Station by TII in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council. Both schemes are at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility of the TII's Project Management Guidelines – Timelines for completion of such projects is current unknown due to the uncertainty associated with progressing such projects through the statutory process and it will not be possible to achieve full delivery of the "Rathkeale to Limerick City Greenway" in advance of the Ryder Cup in 2027.

My Department is supportive of these schemes which received €350,000 in funding in 2025.

Thank you for raising this matter with my Department.

Kind Regards.

Darragh O'Brien

Minister for Transport

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

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

www.gov.ie/transport



17th October 2025

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

By email: plenarymeeting@limerick.ie
Reference No: DAFM-MHR-01237-2025

Dear Ms Farrell,

Thank you for contacting me about Ash Dieback. Since the first finding of Ash Dieback disease in Ireland, my Department has provided support to owners of ash forests impacted. Currently, a package of measures to assist ash forest owners, including financial aid as outlined within an Action Plan approved by the Government in April 2024, offers relief and incentives to ash forest owners to deal with this important issue. The overall financial aid for ash dieback potentially amounts to €237 million, including the €79.5 million Climate Action Performance Payment.

A Taskforce was established in 2024 with responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Ash Dieback Action Plan. This Taskforce is a forum comprising of officials from my Department and stakeholders including ash forest owners. Useful clarifications have been made and actions agreed to progress the implementation of the Plan to date. The role of the Taskforce is to ensure that the Plan is implemented in an effective way, with a coordinated response and resolution of obstacles to implementation.

The Action Plan was welcomed by many stakeholders and interest in the package is reflected in an increase in interest in the reconstitution scheme since the announcement.

I outline below some of the details of the enhanced financial package now available to ash forest owners.

- 100% increase in the site clearance grant rate, from €1,000 to €2,000 per hectare.
- Enhanced replanting grant rates under the new Forestry Programme 2023-2027; depending on forest type. For conifer forests (FT12) that amounts to €3,858/ha. If you choose to replant with native trees, that rate is €6,744/ha, and it is €8,555/ha for agroforestry. In addition, grants of €2,880/ha are also available for Deer Fencing in respect of Forest Type 1 to 11.
- In addition, the Climate Action Performance Payment (CAPP) entitles ash forest owners who clear their sites and replant to a further €5,000 per hectare.

Minister
Michael Healy-Rae
Aire Stáit
Minister of State

Áras Talmhaíochta, Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 WK12

Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12
T +353 1 607 2199 | minister.healyrae@agriculture.gov.ie
www.agriculture.gov.ie



I continue to encourage all ash forest owners who have not yet reconstituted their forest to apply now under my Department's Reconstitution Scheme Ash Dieback 2023-2027 (RADS). Landowners who replant their ash forest under a Reconstitution Scheme may then apply for the additional Climate Action Performance Payment of €5,000 per hectare. Full details on how to apply for both the RADS and the CAPP are available at <https://www.gov.ie/ashdiebacksupports>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Healy-Rae". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Michael Healy-Rae T.D.,
Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

County Secretary

MD/ZP

22nd October, 2025

Memo To All Local Authorities

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

"That this Councils endorses the End Discrimination of Inheritance Tax (EDIT) campaign and calls on Ministers for Equality, Norma Foley, Public Expenditure, Jack Chambers TD and Minister for Finance Paschal Donoghue TD to commit to harmonising the inheritance laws and bands so that people with no direct descendants are treated as equal to families with children in inheritance law and succession planning.

Upon adoption, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities. "

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
Phone: 053 9196260

County Secretary

MD/ZP

22nd October, 2025

Memo to All Local Authorities

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

"While strengthening the welfare and health of animals; making dog breeders and sellers more accountable, transparent and animal welfare centred in their dealings; this Councils calls for the reformation of the Dog Breeding Establishment Act (2010) to incorporate "Stout's Law" into the act.

Stout's Law brings forward changes in the ages, duration and treatment/ conditions of breeding age dogs, limits the amounts of litters in a lifetime, the establishment of an single Independent Regulator with a stricter inspection regime and supports for the Local Authorities to work with licenced breeders while outlawing the practice of backyard puppy farms in Ireland.

Upon passage, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities 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
Phone: 053 9196260

From: Minister Browne's Office
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 5:21 PM
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-03477-2025

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

22nd October 2025

RE: HPLG-MBO-03477-2025

Dear Ciara,

I refer to the recently adopted resolution by the elected members of Limerick City and County Council of 30 September 2025 pertaining to affordable and social housing income limits.

To note, eligibility criteria vary for affordable schemes differ from scheme to scheme with many not subject to any minimum income limits.

Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme

For affordable homes purchased under the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme (LAAPS), purchasers pay a price for their new home in accordance with their purchasing power, calculated as outlined in Affordable Housing Regulations of 2023. Homes made available under LAAPS will have a minimum sales price. There are no specific income thresholds for this scheme.

First Home Scheme

The First Home Scheme is also a shared equity scheme and makes home ownership achievable by bridging the gap for first-time buyers and other eligible homebuyers between their deposit and mortgage, and the price of their new home within regional price ceiling which are available at <https://www.firsthomescheme.ie/about-the-scheme/property-price-ceilings/>. There are no specific income thresholds for this scheme.

Local Authority Home Loan

The Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) is a Government-backed mortgage for first-time buyers and certain other eligible applicants who have been refused a mortgage or have received an insufficient loan offer through a regular mortgage lender. To qualify for LAHL an applicant must have an annual gross income of not more than €70,000 for a single applicant and €85,000 for a joint applicant.

Cost Rental Homes

In the case of Cost Rental homes, in August 2023 the Government increased the income thresholds for new tenancies, with net household income limits rising to €66,000 in Dublin and €59,000 elsewhere. These were introduced across the Cost Rental sector from 1 August 2023, replacing the former national net income limit of €53,000. The increased thresholds broadened the cohort of people eligible to avail of cost rental.

Other measures such as the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Scheme, and the Ready to Build Scheme are also available to help make home ownership more affordable. These measures under Housing for All are primarily aimed at supporting affordability constrained households, first-time buyers and Fresh Start applicants. These supports are regularly reviewed by my Department. None of these additional measures have income limits.

In relation to social housing, the 2011 Social Housing Assessment Regulations prescribe maximum net income limits for each local authority, in different bands according to the area concerned, with income being defined and assessed according to a standard Household Means Policy. The 2011 Regulations do not provide local authorities with any discretion to exceed the limits that apply to their administrative areas.

Under the Household Means Policy, which applies in all local authorities, net income for social housing assessment is defined as gross household income less income tax, PRSI, Universal Social Charge and Additional Superannuation Contribution. The Policy provides for a range of income disregards, and local authorities also have discretion to decide to disregard income that is temporary, short-term or once-off in nature.

The determination of whether an applicant household meets the income criteria is based on a calculation of their preceding 12 months' net average income prior to the date of receipt of application. This ensures that the most comprehensive picture of a household's current and previous income is available at the point of carrying out the assessment.

It remains open to a household to apply for social housing support at any stage, subject to meeting the eligibility and need criteria at the point at which they apply. This ensures households experiencing changed circumstances prior to or since a previous assessment, including material changes in income, can be reassessed in light of such changes. However, such reassessments must also take account of the household income for the 12-month period prior to reassessment.

Housing for All includes a commitment to review income eligibility for social housing. From this review, completed in November 2021, it was recommended moving five local authorities from Band 3 to Band 2, ensuring the income eligibility thresholds better reflect housing costs in those counties. Government also agreed to increase the baseline income thresholds by €5,000 for all local authorities with effect from 1 January 2023. The thresholds thus increased to €40,000, €35,000 and €30,000 for bands 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

The review further recommended the commissioning of research to develop options for a revised or new social housing income eligibility model. The Department received this detailed research, commissioned by the Housing Agency. The scope of the research included examining the existing income limits in the context of current market and population conditions and the suitability or otherwise of the current framework having regard to the significantly changed landscape since the standardised income limits were introduced.

The Department's examination of the report is ongoing. This detailed examination will include consultation with stakeholders and will look at, inter alia, how the social housing income limits system interacts with other housing supports and ensure that they continue to target households correctly.

I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Savage

Private Secretary

From: ANNE MARIE CRAWFORD <ACRAWFOR@donegalcoco.ie>

Sent: Tuesday 4 November 2025 11:08

To: ANNE MARIE CRAWFORD <ACRAWFOR@donegalcoco.ie>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Emergency Household Response Package

Caution: This is an external email and may have a suspicious subject or attached content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact your IT Department

Dear Meetings Administrator,

Please find attached copy of resolution passed by the members of Donegal County Council at their recent meeting.

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

Regards

Anne Marie Crawford
For Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator

Anne Marie Crawford |Staff Officer
Corporate Services, Council Secretariat, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, Co Donegal
Tel: 074 9172208|Email: ACRAWFOR@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council**





4th November 2025

Re: Emergency Household Response Pack


Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

"That this Council imminently seeks funding from the Department to purchase necessary equipment in relation to an "Emergency Household Response Package" for vulnerable households during the winter months, where storms and flooding may occur, leaving people without power, heating, and no ability to access hot food. That this Council should have sufficient provisions in stock and in good time to help citizens."

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

Yours sincerely,

PP. 

Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator

Subject:**Attachments:**

FW: [EXTERNAL]RE: Resolution adopted by Kerry County Council - Inheritance Tax
10 NoM 24 Min for Public Expenditure re Inheritance Tax.pdf; 10a NoM 24 Min for
Finance re Inheritance Tax.pdf; 10b NoM 24 Min for Equality re Inheritance Tax.pdf

From: Ciara Fitzgerald

Subject: [EXTERNAL]RE: Resolution adopted by Kerry County Council - Inheritance Tax

You don't often get email from ciosulli@kerrycoco.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may have a suspicious subject or attached content.
Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact your IT
Department

A Chairde,

Please find attached resolution adopted by the members of Kerry County Council at their October Meeting.
It was agreed to circulate same to all Local Authorities for their consideration.

Regards

Ciara Fitzgerald

Corporate Services, Kerry County Council | County Buildings | Tralee | Co. Kerry | V92 H7VT

☎ 066-718 3861 | ✉ ciara.fitzgerald@kerrycoco.ie

Cé gur féidir liom ríomhphoist a léamh agus a sheoladh lasmuigh de ghnáthuaireanta oibre, nílim ag súil le freagra ná gníomh uaitse lasmuigh de d'uaireanta oibre féin. While I may read and send emails outside normal working hours I do not expect a response or action outside your own working hours.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Guthán | Tel 066 7183500 Suíomh | Web www.kerrycoco.ie

Please quote my Ref: BF/CF/Oct 25/10 NOM24 on all correspondence

02 November 2025

Mr. Jack Chambers, T.D,
Minister for Public Expenditure
Department of Public Expenditure,
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin.2
D02 R583

A Chara,


I have been requested by the members of Kerry County Council to refer the following resolution to you for consideration.

That Kerry County Council endorses the End Discrimination of Inheritance (EDIT) campaign and calls on Ministers for Equality, Norma Foley, Public Expenditure, Jack Chambers and Finance Paschal Donoghue to commit to harmonising the inheritance laws and bands so that people with no direct descendants are treated the same as those with children under inheritance law and succession planning. Furthermore, I request that upon adoption, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.

Please consider this resolution and let me have your response at your convenience.

If you have any queries on the above, please contact Ciara Fitzgerald on e-mail: ciara.fitzgerald@kerrycoco.ie or Tel. 066-7183861.

Mise, le meas,



Bridget Fitzgerald
Meetings Administrator

C.C. Ms. Norma Foley Minister for Equality
C.C. Mr. Pascal O' Donoghue Minister for Finance



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Guthán | Tel 066 7183500 Suíomh | Web www.kerrycoco.ie

Please quote my Ref: BF/CF/Oct 25/10a NOM24 on all correspondence

02 November 2025

Mr. Pascal Donohue, T.D,
Minister for Finance
Department of Finance ,
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin.2
D02 R583

A Chara,

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Mise, le meas,



Bridget Fitzgerald
Meetings Administrator

C.C. Ms. Norma Foley Minister for Equality
C.C. Mr. Jack Chambers Minister for Public Expenditure



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Guthán | Tel 066 7183500 Suíomh | Web www.kerrycoco.ie

Please quote my Ref: BF/CF/Oct 25/10b NOM24 on all correspondence

02 November 2025

Ms. Norma Foley, T.D.,
Minister for Children, Disability and Equality
Department of Children, Disability and Equality
Minister's Office,
Block 1, Miesian Plaza,
50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin 2,
D02 XW14

A Chara,

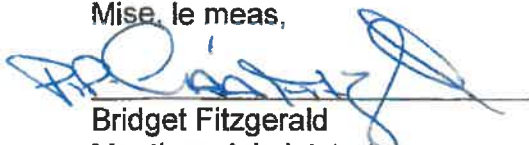
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If you have any queries on the above, please contact Ciara Fitzgerald on e-mail: ciara.fitzgerald@kerrycoco.ie or Tel. 066-7183861.

Mise, le meas,



Bridget Fitzgerald
Meetings Administrator

C.C. Mr. Pascal Donoghue Minister for Finance
C.C. Mr. Jack Chambers Minister for Public Expenditure