

## CORRESPONDENCE

### January 2026 Council Meeting

- Letter received on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, from Corporate Affairs, Laois 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 Government to establish a Referendum Commission to implement the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention, concerning the nomination process for Presidential elections.
- Letter received on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, from the County Secretary, Wexford County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council expressing solidarity with Mary Dunlevy Greene, Mary Donovan, Maurice Patton O Connell and Miriam Moriarty Owens, who are on hunger strike outside of Dáil Éireann, and the thousands of survivors of Ireland's Industrial and Reformatory Schools.
- Email received on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that '*this Council write to the Minister for Agriculture to substantially improve approval times in relation to the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS) grant applications*'.
- Email received on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that '*this Council write to the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan and the Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan calling on them and the Irish Government to hold a formal national commemoration on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catalpa expedition organised by John Devoy and John Boyle O'Reilly, which resulted in the famous rescue of six Fenian prisoners from a British penal colony in Fremantle, Western Australia and asking the Irish government to recommend that the six Fenian prisoners concerned, namely James Wilson, Thomas Hasset, Michael Harrington, Thomas Darragh, Martin Hogan and Robert Cranston be granted a posthumous presidential pardon*'.
- Letter received on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025 from the Meetings Administrator, Longford County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision in relation to OAPs having to pay for their blister packs of medication from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2026.
- Email received on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 from Uisce Éireann in reply to resolution adopted by the Council '*that this Council write to Uisce Éireann to put a system in place to ensure that information on water outages/emergency water issues be provided and communicated, as they arise, to the Elected Members of the relevant Metropolitan / Municipal Districts, by the Uisce Éireann engineer on call or water supervisor*'.

- Letter received on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 from Corporate Services & Governance, Clare County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Health to provide for vaginal estrogen gels and creams to be available over the counter without a prescription like other countries.
- Letter received on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 from Corporate Services & Governance, Clare County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Government to respond urgently to the concerns raised by John Collison (co-founder of Stripe) and by businessman Denis O'Brien regarding Ireland's declining economic competitiveness, infrastructure shortages, skills mismatches in the labour market, and challenges in our tax and regulatory environment.
- Letter received on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 from Corporate Services & Governance, Clare County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Taoiseach to initiate a full and urgent review of local government funding, powers, and democratic structures, with a view to aligning Ireland with European norms.
- Email received on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage outlining resolution adopted by the Council *"that the Council make an extraordinary application to the Minister of Housing for funding to supplement the current funding stream for the quick return of voids / vacant council housing stock to use"*.
- Further email received on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *'this Council write to the Minister for Agriculture to substantially improve approval times in relation to the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS) grant applications'*.
- Further email received on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 from Uisce Éireann in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *'that this Council write to Uisce Éireann to put a system in place to ensure that information on water outages/emergency water issues be provided and communicated, as they arise, to the Elected Members of the relevant Metropolitan / Municipal Districts, by the Uisce Éireann engineer on call or water supervisor'*.
- Letter received on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2025 from the Department of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that *'this Council write to the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan and the Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan calling on them and the Irish Government to hold a formal national commemoration on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catalpa expedition organised by John Devoy and John Boyle O'Reilly, which resulted in the famous rescue of six Fenian prisoners from a British penal colony in Fremantle, Western Australia and asking the Irish government to recommend that the six Fenian prisoners concerned, namely James Wilson, Thomas Hasset, Michael Harrington, Thomas Darragh, Martin Hogan and Robert Cranston be granted a posthumous presidential pardon'*.
- Further email received on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage outlining resolution adopted by the Council *"that the*

*Council make an extraordinary application to the Minister of Housing for funding to supplement the current funding stream for the quick return of voids / vacant council housing stock to use".*

- Letter received on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 from Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council that Sligo County Council notes with deep concern the Government's decision to ratify CETA and, in particular, the Investor Court System (ICS).

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# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae  
Laoise  
Áras an Chontae  
Port Laoise  
Contae Laoise  
R32 EHP9

Laois County Council  
Áras an Chontae  
Portlaoise  
County Laois  
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[corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie)  
[www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie)

Mr. James Browne,  
Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage,  
Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage,  
Custom House,  
Dublin 1.

November 6<sup>th</sup> 2025

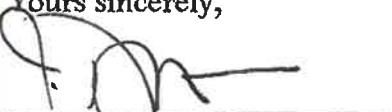
A Chara,

At the October Meeting of Laois County Council, the following Notice of Motion was passed by the elected members:-

*"That Laois County Council calls on the Government to establish a Referendum Commission to implement the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention, concerning the nomination process for Presidential elections, as the current provisions contained in the 1937 Act are no longer fit for purpose"*

I would be obliged to receive your comments/observations on this Notice of Motion in order for us to report back to the Members.

Yours sincerely,

  
Irene Delaney  
Administrative Officer  
Corporate Affairs

Tá Fáilte Romhat  
Gnó a Dhéanamh  
as Gaeilge

coo  
MidlandsIreland.ie

*'I bpáirt leis an bpobal'*

Arna plíontail ar pháipeár atá 100% atchúrsaithe

Do Chomhshaol a chathú



County Secretary

MD/ZP

20<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

**Memo to All Local Authorities**

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

*"This council expresses solidarity with Mary Dunlevy Greene, Mary Donovan, Maurice Patton O Connell and Miriam Moriarty Owens, who are on hunger strike outside of Dáil Éireann, and the thousands of survivors of Ireland's Industrial and Reformatory Schools. We recognise the injustices that many survivors continue to face and we call on the Irish Government to immediately address this issue and to provide for the requests of these survivors including access to a full state contributory pension and H.A.A. medical cards."*

It was agreed this motion be 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](mailto:michael.drea@wexfordcoco.ie)  
Phone: 053 9196260



**From:** Minister Heydons Office  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 December 2025 08:43  
**To:** Plenary Meeting <[plenarymeeting@limerick.ie](mailto:plenarymeeting@limerick.ie)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]DAFM-MHO-03110-2025

Ms. Ciara Farrell  
Limerick City and County Council

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

2nd December 2025

Reference No: DAFM-MHO-03110-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I would like to acknowledge your recent correspondence dated 27/11/2025 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

**From:** Ministers Office  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 December 2025 14:42  
**To:** Plenary Meeting <[plenarymeeting@limerick.ie](mailto:plenarymeeting@limerick.ie)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]CCS-MO-02724-2025

Ms. Ciara Farrell

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

Our Ref: CCS-MO-02724-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence to Patrick O'Donovan, TD. Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport in connection with the 150th Anniversary of the Catalpa Expedition.

Yours sincerely,

Aileen Daly  
Minister's Office

An Roinn Cultúir, Cumarsáide agus Spóirt  
Department of Culture, Communications and Sport  
Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 R5Y3  
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 R5Y3

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

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the November meeting of Longford County Council, the following Notice of Motion was agreed by the Elected Members:

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Casey and seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern**

I call on Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Health and ask them to reverse the decision of the OAP's having to pay for their blister packs of medication from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2026.

This will cause yet another form of hardship to our older people and may lead to confusion around which medication to take.

**Response:**

The Elected Members unanimously supported the motion to write to the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill in this regard.

Kind Regards

Signed: Lorraine McKee  
Lorraine McKee  
Meetings Administrator

Date: 2 December 2025

**From:** councilmeetings  
**Sent:** Monday 8 December 2025 13:54  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Cc:** councilmeetings  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]RE: Resolution - November Meeting of Limerick City and County Council

Hi Ciara,

Thanks for sending your NoM that we have received below sent through to our Notices of Motion email address [councilmeetings@water.ie](mailto:councilmeetings@water.ie)

This request has been logged and we'll provide an update to you soon.

Regards,

John

**John Noone**  
LRSD / ERSD Analyst

**Uisce Éireann**  
Teach Colvill, 24–26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86, Éire  
**Uisce Éireann**  
Colvill House, 24–26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, D01 NP86, Ireland

[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)  
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COMHAIRLE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | CLARE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025.

Our Ref: December25 – 22/JC/AC

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the December meeting of the Council, the members passed the following resolution:

“Clare County Council requests the Minister for Health to provide for Vaginal Estrogen Gels & Creams be available over the counter without a prescription like other countries.”

Yours sincerely,

  
**John Corry,**  
**Senior Executive Officer,**  
**Corporate Services & Governance,**  
**People & Culture, Corporate Services & Governance, ICT & Digital Services**

An Rannóg um Sheirbhísí Corparáideacha agus Rialachas  
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services and Governance Department  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025.

Our Ref: December25 – 24/JC/AC

Dear Meetings Administrator,

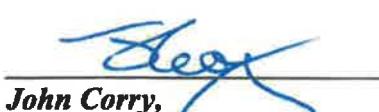
At the December meeting of the Council, the members passed the following resolution:

“That Clare County Council calls on the Irish Government to respond urgently to the concerns raised by John Collison (co-founder of Stripe) and by businessman Denis O'Brien regarding Ireland's declining economic competitiveness, infrastructure shortages, skills mismatches in the labour market, and challenges in our tax and regulatory environment.

Specifically, Clare County Council requests that the Government:

1. Prioritise a world-class education and skills strategy that ensures graduates are equipped for a rapidly changing global economy and increasing technological demands.
2. Accelerate planning and delivery of housing, transport and digital infrastructure in line with John Collison's concerns that Ireland is "going backwards" in developing the homes, transport networks and energy systems needed to support economic growth.
3. Promote a more agile, innovation-focused tax and regulatory system, addressing criticisms raised by Denis O'Brien regarding "digital colonialism" and Ireland's ability to sustain a competitive enterprise environment for both multinational and indigenous businesses.
4. Adopt a more ambitious national vision and leadership approach that strengthens ministerial accountability and reduces process-driven delays, ensuring Ireland remains future-focused and responsive to economic challenges.”

Yours sincerely,

  
**John Corry,**  
**Senior Executive Officer,**  
**Corporate Services & Governance,**  
**People & Culture, Corporate Services & Governance, ICT & Digital Services**



9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025.

Our Ref: December25 – 25/JC/AC

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the December meeting of the Council, the members passed the following resolution:

“That Clare County Council calls on the Taoiseach to initiate a full and urgent review of local government funding, powers, and democratic structures, with a view to aligning Ireland with European norms. In the 2019 report “Democracy Works If You Let It” by Dr. Mary Murphy of Maynooth University, it was noted that only 8% of public spending in Ireland occurs at local government level, compared to an EU average of 23%.

The review must examine the overall financing model for local government, including the significant financial pressures placed on councils due to the requirement to fully fund pension obligations and to co-fund government schemes, often at levels ranging from 10% to 50%. It should also assess the employment status and pension arrangements of local authority staff, with a view to formally recognising all local authority employees as public servants and incorporating their pension entitlements into the public sector pension scheme.

Once completed and approved by Government, the review should be implemented through a clear and time-bound action plan to restore democratic accountability, strengthen local service delivery, and ensure parity of esteem for the workforce delivering essential public services. I request that this motion be forwarded to all County Councils.”

Yours sincerely,

  
John Corry,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Corporate Services & Governance,  
People & Culture, Corporate Services & Governance, ICT & Digital Services

**From:** Minister Browne's Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday 10 December 2025 11:58  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-04338-2025

10th December 2025

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

Ref: HPLG-MBO-04338-2025

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,

Jack Savage  
Private Secretary

**From:** Minister Heydons Office  
**Sent:** Tuesday 16 December 2025 09:36  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Reply

Ms. Ciara Farrell  
Limerick City and County Council

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

Reference No: DAFM-MHO-03110-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I refer to the recent correspondence from Limerick City and County Council relating to the Targeted Modernisation Scheme (TAMS 3).

The timelines for the issue of TAMS approvals are agreed with the representative farm bodies. The current agreement detailed in the Farmers Charter states that the issue of approval following selection of valid application within 3 months of ranking and selection of files under each tranche and no longer than 6 months following the closure of a tranche.

I am satisfied that the Department is meeting and exceeding the targets as agreed in the Charter in the vast majority of cases.

I trust this clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Rigney  
Private Secretary

**From:** localrepsupport  
**Sent:** Friday 19 December 2025 09:29  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Cc:** councilmeetings  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Uisce Éireann RE: Resolution - November Meeting of Limerick City and County Council

Dear Ms Ciara Farrell,

I am writing to you regarding your notifications to local Councillors in relation to outages and emergency water issues. Your Uisce Éireann reference number for same was 42539/97845, which was raised on the 09/12/2025.

I understand this issue has been a source of concern for you and your constituents.

The Communications Department has advised that Uisce Éireann immediately investigate the source of the burst and work as a matter of priority to repair the water main and restore normal water supply to impacted homes and businesses as quickly and safely as possible. For unforeseen/unplanned outages, it is not possible to provide advance notice to customers, however, information including the restoration time, is added to the Uisce Éireann website at <https://www.water.ie/water-supply/supply-and-service-update/> as soon as possible following notification of the outage. Vulnerable customers who have registered with Uisce Éireann receive direct communications from us for planned and unplanned outages lasting more than four hours. To register as a vulnerable customer or as an alternative contact, you can visit our vulnerable customer's page. Uisce Éireann also has a free text service, providing real-time updates for local issues. Customers can sign up with their Eircode and mobile number on our text alerts page. Often, unplanned and planned outages, road closures, and project updates are supported by paid targeted posts on social media, notes to elected representatives in the affected constituency, and a press release.

Should you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact us on the details below. For the latest supply and services updates, please see: <https://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates>.

Thank you for using Uisce Éireann's Local Representative Support Desk.

Yours sincerely,

**Geraldine Torreón**  
Local Representative Support Desk

**Uisce Éireann**  
Bosca PO 860, Oifig Sheachadta na Cathrach Theas, Cathair Chorcaí, Éire  
**Uisce Éireann**  
Uisce Éireann, PO Box 860, South City Delivery Office, Cork City

**Telephone:** 0818 178 178

**Text to Voice/Voice to Text:** 1800 378 378

[localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie)

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

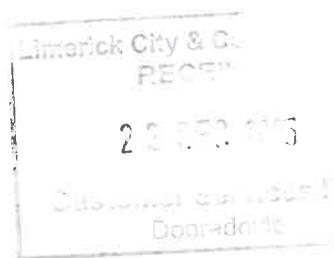
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***Please note:*** The Local Representative Support Desk operates Monday to Friday, 09:00–17:30 (excluding Bank Holidays). For urgent matters outside these hours, our Customer Service line offers a priority service for Local Representatives where we will be happy to assist you. The contact channels listed above remain available to during these times.



15 December 2025

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



Reference Number: DOT-TM25-15835-2025

Dear Ms Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., dated 2nd December 2025.

Yours sincerely

Jacob O'Donnell  
Department of the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: [taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie)

CC: Minister for Arts, Media, Communications, Culture and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan, T.D.  
Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan, T.D.

**From:** Minister Browne's Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday 7 January 2026 10:33  
**To:** Plenary Meeting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]HPLG-MBO-04338-2025

Oifig an Aire  
Office of the Minister

7th January 2026

RE: HPLG-MBO-04338-2025

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I refer to your correspondence dated 10th December 2025 in relation to funding to supplement the current funding stream for the quick return of voids / vacant council housing stock to use.

Firstly, it is important to note that local authorities are legally responsible for the management and maintenance of local authority housing stock, including pre-letting repairs to vacant properties, the implementation of a planned maintenance programme and carrying out of responsive repairs, are matters for each individual local authority under Section 58 of the Housing Act 1966. Local authorities also have a legal obligation to ensure that all of their tenanted properties are compliant with the provisions of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations, 2019.

Local authority officials and elected members have a very important role to play in this regard by making adequate budgetary provision for housing repairs and cyclical maintenance utilising the significant housing rental income available to them as part of the annual budgetary process.

Notwithstanding this, the Department provides annual funding support to local authorities in preparing vacant units for re-let under the Voids Programme. This funding was introduced originally to tackle long term vacant units and is now increasingly targeted to support authorities to ensure minimal turnaround and re-let times for vacant stock.

There was no upper cap on the amount that could be spent and recouped on an individual dwelling, providing the total amount averaged across all dwellings submitted by a local authority did not exceed €11,000. This streamlined approach was to ensure only minimum works were carried out when the property became vacant and all desirable works were to be carried out under the Planned Maintenance Programme over the life cycle of the asset limiting the impact on the local authorities own resources.

The programme has provided €31 million to local authorities in 2025 to support the refurbishment and re-letting of a minimum of 1,900 homes, and continue the transition from

a reactive, voids approach to a Planned Maintenance approach. This funding will increase in 2026 to continue support for the prompt turnaround of casual vacancies in local authority social homes.

Data on delivery under the 2025 Planned Maintenance/Voids Programme, and local authority allocations for 2026, will be available early next year.

I trust this clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Savage  
Private Secretary



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH  
ÁRAS CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

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COUNTY HALL RIVERSIDE SLIGO F: +353 71 914 1119 W: [www.sligococo.ie](http://www.sligococo.ie)

Our Ref: 01/2026-4.11

15th January, 2026

To/                    Each Local Authority

At the Ordinary meeting Sligo County Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2026, the Members agreed the following resolution:

*"That Sligo County Council notes with deep concern the Government's decision to ratify CETA and, in particular, the Investor Court System (ICS).*

*This Council believes that ICS gives foreign corporations powers that undermine local democracy, threaten environmental and planning decisions, and risk exposing the State to costly investor lawsuits. Sligo County Council therefore calls on the Government to suspend Ireland's participation in the ICS element of CETA pending a full, independent assessment of its impacts on local authorities, public services, and environmental protections.*

*This motion to be circulated to all local authorities, all Sligo-Leitrim TDs and Senators, and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment."*

Yours sincerely

Sinéad Branley  
Sinéad Branley  
Meetings Administrator

Seirbhisi Corparáideacha/Corporate Services Section  
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh/Sligo County Council  
Áras an Chontae/County Hall  
Cois Abhainn/Riverside

Sligeach F91 Y763/ Sligo F91 Y763

0719111024/0719111111

[meetings@sligococo.ie](mailto:meetings@sligococo.ie)