

CORRESPONDENCE

July 2026 Council Meeting

- Correspondence received on 29th May, 2026 from the County Secretary, Galway County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council in relation to the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) and resolving to write to An Taoiseach, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- Emails received on 5th June and 8th June, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“that this Council write to the Taoiseach and Minister for Health with a letter of support for the National Ambulance Service (NAS) frontline staff in their action that the HSE implements recommendations from the 2020 independent report into paramedic and advanced paramedic roles and working conditions”*.
- Email received on 8th June, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to write to the Minister requesting that An Garda Síochána actively enforce existing legislation and ensure that individuals who participate in the illegal racing of sulkies on the public roads of Limerick City and County are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
- Email received on 8th June, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to write to the Minister to withdraw all planning exemptions for properties accommodating International Protection Applicants and to ensure that all properties go through the normal planning process.
- Email received on 8th June, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Finance in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister to review personal taxes and the Universal Charge with effect from January 2027 when presenting National Budget Legislation this October.
- Email received on 9th June, 2026 from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to write to the leaders of the two Government parties, to express our solidarity and full support for the survivors of the former Bessborough mother and baby home.
- Letter received on 12th June, 2026 from the Department of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to write to the leaders of the two Government parties, to express our solidarity and full support for the survivors of the former Bessborough mother and baby home.

- Letter received on 12th June, 2026 from the Department of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“to write to the Taoiseach and Minister for Health with a letter of support for the National Ambulance Service (NAS) frontline staff in their action that the HSE implements recommendations from the 2020 independent report into paramedic and advanced paramedic roles and working conditions”*.
 - Letter received on 12th June, 2026 from the Department of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Government to amend the Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Prohibition of Importation of Goods) Bill to include the prohibition of trade in services.
 - Letter received on 12th June, 2026 from the County Secretary, Wexford County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling for the unwinding and abolition of the Universal Social Charge in Budget 2027.
 - Email received on 17th June, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to write to the Minister requesting that An Garda Síochána actively enforce existing legislation and ensure that individuals who participate in the illegal racing of sulkies on the public roads of Limerick City and County are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
 - Email received on 22nd June, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to write to the Minister requesting that An Garda Síochána actively enforce existing legislation and ensure that individuals who participate in the illegal racing of sulkies on the public roads of Limerick City and County are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
 - Further reply received on 26th June, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to write to the Minister requesting that An Garda Síochána actively enforce existing legislation and ensure that individuals who participate in the illegal racing of sulkies on the public roads of Limerick City and County are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
-

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

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

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@GalwayCountyCouncil

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Customer Services
(091) 509 000
customerservices@galwaycoco.ie

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
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Tithíocht
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Plánaíocht
Planning
(091) 509 308
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Timpeallacht & Tréidliacht
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Infrastruchtúr fisiciúil
agus Athrú Aeráide
Physical Infrastructure
and Climate Change
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Clár na dToghthóirí
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Forbairt Tuaithe agus Pobail
agus Rannsóidh
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Development and Integration
(091) 509 521
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Leabharlann
Library
(091) 509 388
info@galwaylibrary.ie



CC1-1a-0026 – May 2026 (2)
Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

JB/tc

28th May 2026

An Taoiseach Michéal Martin,

Department of the Taoiseach,

Government Buildings,

Merrion Street Upper,

Dublin 2,

D02 R583.

taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

RE: Resolution of Galway County Council – CETA Trade Agreement

A chara,

At the May Meeting of Galway County Council, the following resolution was passed:

This Council agrees that the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) providing additional rights to multinational corporations to sue the state outside of ordinary legal systems we currently have will undermine EU social, health and environmental standards. This Council acknowledges that many of the trade elements are already in place and does not need the addition of corporations being able to sue the Irish government through the Investor Court System (ICS) when any new laws affect their profits. This council stands against the Investor Court System (ICS) and calls this constituency a CETA-Free Zone.

This Council resolves to write to the Minister for Trade, the Minister for Local government and the Taoiseach to outline this position. It further resolves to

publicise the council's concerns about CETA and to circulate this motion with other Councils as correspondence for consideration.

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

Please arrange to reply directly to Ms. Jean Brann, County Secretary at secretary@galwaycoco.ie

Mise, le meas,

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

Ms. Jean Brann
County Secretary

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

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill, Galway
H91 H6KX.

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Infrastruchtúr Físiciúil
agus Aithní Aeráide
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agus Inneascadh
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community@galwaycoco.ie

Leabharlann
Library
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info@galwaylibrary.ie



CC1-1a-0026 – May 2026 (1) Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

JB/tc

28th May 2026

Mr. James Browne,
Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage,
Custom House,
Dublin,
D01 W6X0.

minister@housing.gov.ie

RE: Resolution of Galway County Council – CETA Trade Agreement

A chara,

At the May Meeting of Galway County Council, the following resolution was passed:

This Council agrees that the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) providing additional rights to multinational corporations to sue the state outside of ordinary legal systems we currently have will undermine EU social, health and environmental standards. This Council acknowledges that many of the trade elements are already in place and does not need the addition of corporations being able to sue the Irish government through the Investor Court System (ICS) when any new laws affect their profits. This council stands against the Investor Court System (ICS) and calls this constituency a CETA-Free Zone.

This Council resolves to write to the Minister for Trade, the Minister for Local government and the Taoiseach to outline this position. It further resolves to publicise the council's concerns about CETA and to circulate this motion with other Councils as correspondence for consideration.

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

Please arrange to reply directly to Ms. Jean Brann, County Secretary at secretary@galwaycoco.ie

Mise, le meas,



Ms. Jean Brann
County Secretary

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Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh
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CC1-1a-0026 – May 2026 (2) **Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**
Galway County Council

JB/tc

28th May 2026

Minister Helen McEntee,
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade,
Iveagh House,
80 St. Stephens Green,
Dublin 2 D02VY53

Helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie

RE: Resolution of Galway County Council – CETA Trade Agreement

A chara,

At the May Meeting of Galway County Council, the following resolution was passed:

This Council agrees that the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) providing additional rights to multinational corporations to sue the state outside of ordinary legal systems we currently have will undermine EU social, health and environmental standards. This Council acknowledges that many of the trade elements are already in place and does not need the addition of corporations being able to sue the Irish government through the Investor Court System (ICS) when any new laws affect their profits. This council stands against the Investor Court System (ICS) and calls this constituency a CETA-Free Zone.

This Council resolves to write to the Minister for Trade, the Minister for Local government and the Taoiseach to outline this position. It further resolves to publicise the council's concerns about CETA and to circulate this motion with other Councils as correspondence for consideration.

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

Please arrange to reply directly to Ms. Jean Brann, County Secretary at secretary@galwaycoco.ie

Mise, le meas,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jean Brann", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Jean Brann
County Secretary

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Friday 5 June 2026 10:54
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-03713-2026

5th June 2026

Dear Ms. Farrell,

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence.

Department officials will endeavour to provide you with a response as soon as possible. For your records, the reference number for your correspondence is HEA-MO-03713-2026.

Yours sincerely,

Joann Lynch
Private Secretary

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Monday 8 June 2026 09:09
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]HEA-MO-03713-2026

HEA-MO-03713-2026
8th June 2026

Dear Ms Farrell,

Thank you for your correspondence.

It was regrettable that SIPTU and UNITE members in the National Ambulance Service (NAS) chose to proceed with industrial action, given the clear risk this posed to service capacity and the potential disruption to emergency care and timely access to life-saving services.

While every effort was made to minimise the impact on patients during the 24 hour work stoppage, there were significant delays in ambulance response times, which may have caused distress to many people who depended on the service. It is important to acknowledge the support of staff and unions in agreeing contingency plans which assisted in reducing the risk to patients and that on several occasions NAS staff returned to work to support the management of critical cases. We are also very grateful for the support of Community First Responder teams and the co-operation of the public in using alternative health services where it was appropriate throughout the 24 hour stoppage.

Following discussions in the labour court w/c 18th May, the Department welcomes the recommendations outlined in the Labour Courts decision received Tuesday 2nd June 2026. The Labour Court's recommendations are both fair and forward-looking. These recommendations will modernize outdated and unsuitable pay structures that no longer reflect the demands and professionalism of today's ambulance workforce. These are significant improvements that recognise the vital role ambulance professionals play in delivering emergency care across the country. The matter will now proceed to ballot from SIPTU and Unite members. All industrial action has been stood down pending conclusion of the balloting process.

Yours sincerely,

Joann Lynch
Private Secretary to the Minister for Health.

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Monday 8 June 2026 10:50
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-06786-2026

Ms. Ciara Farrell

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-06786-2026

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your correspondence dated 3 June 2026, in relation to Sulky Racing On Public Roads.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Byrne
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](#).

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Monday 8 June 2026 10:53
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-06787-2026

Ms. Ciara Farrell

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-06787-2026

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your correspondence dated 3 June 2026, in relation to Withdrawal of Planning Exemptions of IPAS Accommodation.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Byrne
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](#).

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Monday 8 June 2026 15:02
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FIN-MO-02109-2026

Our Ref: FIN-MO-02109-2026

Ms Ciara Farrell
Meetings Administrator
Limerick City & County Council.

Dear Ms. Farrell,

The Tánaiste and Minister for Finance, Mr. Simon Harris TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence regarding the resolution adopted at the May meeting of Limerick City & County Council and to say that the contents will be considered in the context of the forthcoming Budget.

Yours sincerely

Niamh Murtagh
Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance.

A Member of the Minister for Finance staff. The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on www.lobbying.ie).

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Tá an fhaisnéis atá sa ríomhphost seo (agus in aon cheangaltáin) faoi rún agus is don fhaighteoir/do na faighteoirí beartaithe é agus é/iad sin amháin. Mura tusa an faighteoir beartaithe, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo ná aon chuid di a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh ná a choinneáil. Sa chás gur trí earráid a fuair tú an ríomhphost seo, tabhair fógra dom láithreach faoi sin agus scríos gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó do ríomhchóra(i)s. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfaidh an ríomhphost seo agus aon fhreagra air bheith faoi réir iarraidh ar a eisiúint de bhun an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Tuesday 9 June 2026 09:42
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FIN-MO-02122-2026

Our Ref: FIN-MO-02122-2026

Ms. Ciara Farrell
Limerick City and County Council

plenarymeeting@limerick.ie

Dear Ms. Farrell,

The Tánaiste and Minister for Finance, Mr. Simon Harris, TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter regarding Bessborough mother and baby home.

Yours sincerely

Niamh Murtagh
Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance

A Member of the Minister for Finance staff. The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on www.lobbying.ie).

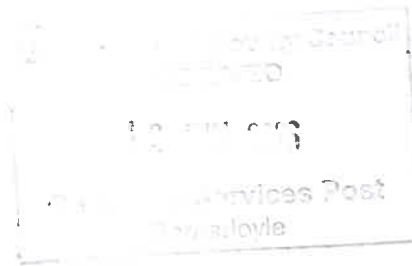
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08 June 2026

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



Reference Number: DOT-TM25-01773-2026

Dear Ms Farrell

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., regarding Bessborough mother and baby home.

This is an acknowledgement to confirm that your letter has been received and will be processed by officials within the Department of the Taoiseach.

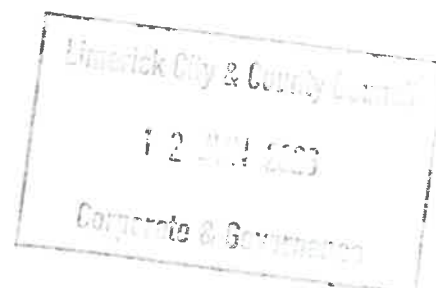
Yours sincerely

Owen Currie
Department of the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

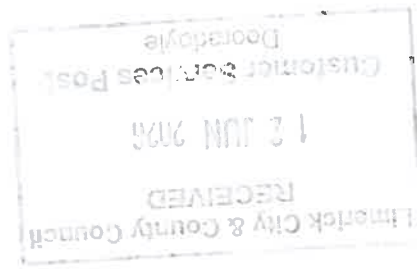
Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

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www.gov.ie/taoiseach





08 June 2026



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

Reference Number: DOT-TM25-01768-2026

Dear Ms Farrell

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., regarding a letter of support for the National Ambulance Service.

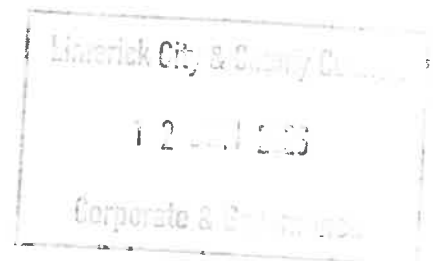
This is an acknowledgement to confirm that your letter has been received and will be processed by officials within the Department of the Taoiseach.

Yours sincerely

Owen Currie
Department of the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

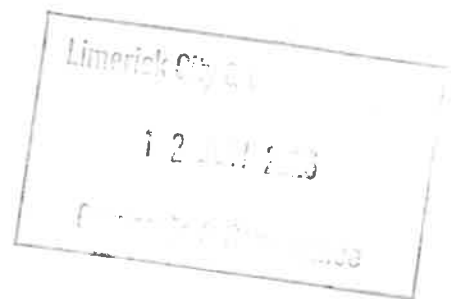
Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie





08 June 2026

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



Reference Number: DOT-TM25-01769-2026

Dear Ms Farrell

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., dated 3 June 2026.

Yours sincerely

Owen Currie

Department of the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01 619 4021

Email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

County Secretary

MD/ZP

11th June, 2026

MEMO TO ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

"In recognition of the cost-of-living crisis and that workers are suffering the most and rewarded the least in our economy, and while being overtaxed and not getting any assistance from the government, this Council calls for the unwinding and abolition of the Universal Social Charge in Budget 2027. Upon adoption, we circulate 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



From: Ministers Office
Sent: Wednesday 17 June 2026 12:41
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-06786-2026

Ms. Ciara Farrell
plenarymeeting@limerick.ie

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-06786-2026

Dear Ms. Farrell,

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

Sulky racing and related issues are primarily animal welfare-related. Legislation concerning animal welfare and its implementation fall within the remit of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. It is open to you to contact Minister Heydon in relation to your animal welfare concerns.

All road users are subject to road traffic legislation and I would encourage anyone who has knowledge of a criminal act, or believes that a criminal act may have occurred, to contact their local/nearest Garda station to report this.

Members of An Garda Síochána also have a range of powers in relation to animal welfare concerns. In particular, the following Acts, together with relevant local bye-laws, provide powers to search with or without warrant, to seize animals and to arrest individuals in contravention of the legislation:

- the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013;
- the Control of Horses Act 1996; and
- the Control of Dogs Act 1986.

All road users are subject to road traffic legislation and I would encourage anyone who has knowledge of a criminal act, or believes that a criminal act may have occurred, to contact their local/nearest Garda station to report this.

As with all matters requiring a policing response, cases of animal cruelty should be reported to the local/nearest Garda station, or in emergencies, by calling 999 or 112.

I trust this will be of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Byrne
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](#).

From: Minister Heydons Office
Sent: Monday 22 June 2026 13:05
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]DAFM-MHO-01791-2026

Ms. Ciara Farrell
Limerick City and County Council

plenarymeeting@limerick.ie

22nd June 2026

Reference No: DAFM-MHO-01791-2026

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I would like to acknowledge your recent correspondence dated 17/06/2026 to Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding sulky racing on the public roads of Limerick City.

I will bring your correspondence to the Private Secretary's attention. In the interim I have forwarded your correspondence for the attention of relevant Department officials.

Yours sincerely,

Bianca Casado
Minister's Office.

From: Minister Heydons Office
Sent: Friday 26 June 2026 10:25
To: Plenary Meeting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Reply

Ms. Ciara Farrell
Limerick City and County Council.
plenarymeeting@limerick.ie

Reference No: DAFM-MHO-01791-2026

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I would like to thank you for your correspondence to Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding sulky racing on the public roads of Limerick City.

The Department strongly condemns the mistreatment of any animal and takes the matter of animal welfare most seriously. Neglect of or causing unnecessary suffering to animals is not acceptable in our society.

The Department is committed to the continued robust enforcement of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, which provides a modern framework for regulating and applying standards in the area of animal health and welfare. In this regard, the Department and authorised officers appointed under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, including An Garda Síochána, Customs agents, local authorities and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA) undertake appropriate enforcement action, where breaches or shortcomings are identified.

The welfare of equines is protected by legislation and there is a commitment in the Programme for Government to prioritise equine welfare and to build on existing inspectorate supports across the country, ensuring a consistent approach to dealing with horse welfare. Primary responsibility for protecting the welfare of equines rests with the owner or keeper.

The use of sulkies on public roads specifically, as with the use of all vehicles, including animal-drawn vehicles, is governed by the relevant provisions of the Roads and Road Traffic Acts. Matters in connection with this legislation would be a matter for the Minister for Transport. In addition, the drivers of all vehicles used on public roads, including horse-drawn carriages, are required to comply with road traffic legislation and to behave in a safe manner paying due care to other road users. The enforcement of such road traffic legislation is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

The Department operates a confidential animal welfare helpline through which members of the public can report incidents of animal cruelty or neglect for investigation. The dedicated email address and helpline in place for reporting suspected cases of animal welfare are:

Helpline Phone No: 01 607 2379.

Email address - animalwelfare@agriculture.gov.ie

Yours sincerely,

Maria Rigney
Private Secretary.