

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference National young carers Conference

Name of Conference UCD

Location of Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Conference 7th March

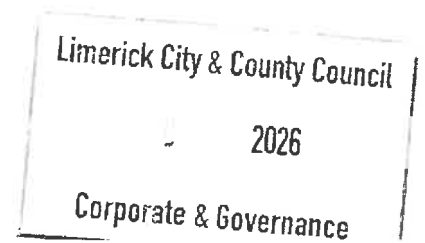
Summary of Conference Content

An Amazing event from lived experiences  
and the stress they live in their every  
day life

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: Ger Ward

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND  
SUBSISTENCE





**29<sup>th</sup> May, 2026**

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## **TO : THE MAYOR, PRÍOMH CHOMHAIRLEOIR AND EACH MEMBER OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **Report on the Limerick City and County Council's Delegation Visit to Savannah, Georgia, US**

#### **Introduction**

In response to an official invitation from the City of Savannah, Georgia, a delegation from Limerick City and County Council travelled to Savannah from 14th to 19th March 2026 to participate in the city's annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations and to further strengthen the longstanding civic, cultural, and economic relationship between both cities. The delegation was led by the Príomh-Chomhairleoir, Councillor Catherine Slattery.

The 2026 programme was of particular significance due to:

- The appointment of **Mr. Marty Hogan as Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade**, a role of high civic honour within Savannah, and
- The participation of **Minister Patrick O'Donovan and the Consul General**, reflecting the importance of the visit at national and diplomatic level

Mr. Hogan, who has strong links with Limerick, provided a direct and meaningful connection between both cities, significantly enhancing the visibility and profile of Limerick across the programme of events. Savannah's St. Patrick's Day celebrations represent one of the largest such events globally, attracting in excess of 300,000 visitors annually, making it one of the largest parades in the United States. Against this backdrop, the strong and visible representation of the Limerick delegation, alongside Ministerial and diplomatic participation, ensured that Limerick was prominently positioned throughout the civic, ceremonial and media programme.

#### **Strategic Context – Limerick / Savannah Friendship Agreement**

The 2026 visit builds directly on the formal Friendship Agreement signed between Limerick and Savannah in February 2025, marking a new phase of structured collaboration between both cities. The Agreement established a framework for co-operation across:

- Cultural and civic engagement
- Economic development and trade
- Education and research collaboration

## **Civic and High-Level Engagements**

A formal dinner engagement with Minister Patrick O'Donovan, the Consul General and Savannah leadership provided a key opportunity for high-level dialogue. This engagement reflected the importance of the relationship at:

- Local authority level
- National Government level
- Diplomatic level

It also reinforced Limerick's central role within the programme, with the presence of Ministerial representation further elevating the delegation's profile and supporting discussions on strategic collaboration across economic, cultural and institutional areas.

## **St. Patrick's Day Mass, Media and Parade**

The St. Patrick's Day programme formed the centrepiece of the visit. The delegation attended the annual Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist, followed by participation in the parade and associated media engagements. As set out in the programme, Minister Patrick O'Donovan, the Consul General and local authority representatives, including Limerick, participated in coordinated media interviews, ensuring strong representation of the Irish delegation.

Savannah's parade is recognised as one of the largest in the United States, attracting over 300,000 spectators. The 2026 event was distinguished by:

- The appointment of Marty Hogan as Grand Marshal
- The high-profile visibility of the Limerick delegation
- Representation across civic, ceremonial and media platforms, including Ministerial and diplomatic engagement

Through participation in the parade, media interviews and official events, Limerick City and Count achieved significant exposure to both live audiences and wider media coverage, reinforcing its international profile.

## **Ports, Trade and Economic Collaboration**

The delegation visited the **Georgia Ports Authority (Port of Savannah)**. This engagement was undertaken in the context of the growing importance of international trade and the strategic role of ports, and included representation aligned across local authority and broader Irish delegation structures. The Port of Savannah handled approximately 5.7 million container units annually, reflecting its importance as a major international trade hub. This has strong relevance for Limerick in the context of Shannon Foynes Port Company and the Shannon Estuary, which is Ireland's second-largest port operation, has significant capacity and growth potential and is identified as a key national economic and energy hub.

## **Acknowledgements**

The delegation extends sincere appreciation to the City of Savannah, World Trade Center Savannah, Georgia Southern University and all partners for their support and hospitality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Catherine Slattery". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Councillor Catherine Slattery**

**Príomh Chomhairleoir**

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**Organiser of Conference**

Hometree\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Conference: \_Changing Landscapes The Politics and Power Dynamic  
of Nature Restoration at Scale**

**Location of Conference \_The Falls Hotel Ennistymon Co. Clare**

**Date of Conference**

14/5/26\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary of Conference Content**

Full day conference with panels of speakers and workshops. Included discussion with Minister Christopher O'Sullivan and his commitment to a Nature Restoration budget.

Matt Smith CEO of Hometree gave a talk about their achievements in nature restoration and goals for the future.

Numerous panel discussions during the day with speakers like John Burke of Armada Hotel and Aoibheann O'Brien co founder and Director of Food Cloud and Justin McCarthy CEO Glas Port Bio ( developing world class solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

On closing all conference attendees were given an oak sapling to plant in memory of Manchán Magan who was a great advocate of nature restoration and preservation.

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Signature: Peter Doyle

Print Name: PETER DOYLE

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