

CORRESPONDENCE

September 2026 Council Meeting

- Letter received on 9th July, 2026, from the Lord Mayor of Dublin outlining resolution adopted by the Council condemning the scheduling of the upcoming UEFA Nations League fixtures between the Republic of Ireland and Israel, due to take place in September and October 2026.
- Letter received on 16th July, 2026, from the Meetings Administrator, Louth County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Office of the Planning Regulator and any other relevant Planning Authorities to amend the Planning and Development Regulations and associated guidelines in relation to vape shops and comparable premises.
- Email received on 27th July, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“that this Council write to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration seeking a review of learner protections for international students following the recent closure of Student Campus in Limerick, and outlining what measures can be introduced to ensure Limerick remains a welcoming and trusted destination for international students to live, learn and work”*.
- Letter received on 31st July, 2026 from the Office of the Mid West Acute and Older People Services, HSE Mid West in reply to resolution adopted by the Council to write to the HSE asking if a hub dedicated to menopause can be established in Limerick.
- Reply received on 24th August, 2026 from the Office of the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in reply to resolution adopted by the Council *“that this Council write to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration seeking a review of learner protections for international students following the recent closure of Student Campus in Limerick, and outlining what measures can be introduced to ensure Limerick remains a welcoming and trusted destination for international students to live, learn and work”*.
- Letter received on 15th September 2026, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services and Governance, Clare County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Government to amend the relevant electoral legislation and regulations to provide that candidates for election shall not be required to have their precise residential address published on ballot papers, notices of poll or other publicly available electoral documentation.

- Letter received on 15th September 2026, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services and Governance, Clare County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Social Protection to look at increasing the top up payment to Community Employment (CE) scheme workers to a minimum of €50 and broaden the eligibility criteria to access CE Schemes to encourage uptake and provide workers for community services.
 - Letter received on 17th September 2026, from the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services and Governance, Carlow County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Health and the Health Service Executive to urgently review and reform the current admission policy for patients presenting at Emergency Departments with suicidal ideation or acute mental health distress.
 - Letter received on 21st September 2026, from the Meeting Administrator, Leitrim County Council outlining resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD take an urgent review of Eir's telecommunications infrastructure, particularly in rural Ireland, and to introduce legally enforceable minimum standards for the networks reliability, maintenance and repair times, backed by meaningful penalties for persistent failures. And to strengthened powers for ComReg to ensure accountability and the resilience of the telecommunications infrastructure, recognising that reliable connectivity is now an essential national service.
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Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath
Lord Mayor of Dublin

Lord Mayor Daryl Barron

All Local Authorities

8th July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

At the monthly meeting of Dublin City Council held yesterday, the members of the City Council passed the following Emergency Motion in the names of Councillors Cieran Perry, Nial Ring, Mannix Flynn, Pat Dunne, John Lyons, Vincent Jackson, Kevin Breen, Conor Reddy, Noelle Browne, Feljin Jose, Ray Cunningham, Mícheál Mac Donncha, Paddy Monahan, Lesley Byrne, Karl Stanley, Anthony Connaghan and Jesslyn Henry.

That this Council becomes the first local government authority to formally condemn the scheduling of the upcoming UEFA Nations League fixtures between the Republic of Ireland and Israel, due to take place in September and October 2026.

The members note and support the massive public outcry and recent fan protests at the Aviva Stadium, which reflect the deep-seated anger of the Irish public regarding these fixtures.

We strongly support the sentiments of international captain Seamus Coleman, who rightly highlighted that this moral dilemma should never have been landed “on the toes of the players”, and that the footballing authorities need to show leadership. The burden of international diplomacy and human rights advocacy must not be forced onto individual athletes, and no Irish player should be put under pressure or left exposed to careerthreatening sanctions by taking a standalone personal position.

Therefore, this Council calls directly on the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) to take full institutional responsibility, show true moral leadership, and withdraw the Republic of Ireland team from these matches.

The Council notes with profound disappointment that the FAI board has instead tabled its own motion for next Wednesday's Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), explicitly asking members to endorse fulfilling these fixtures under the guise of protecting Irish football. While the FAI highlights potential UEFA sanctions and estimates a disputable financial impact of €5.5 million to €10.3 million, claiming a boycott would cause lasting harm, this

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Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath
Lord Mayor of Dublin

Council firmly asserts that while the FAI may fear financial cost by standing up for human rights, that is absolutely no excuse for being morally bankrupt as they are now.

While the FAI abdicates its moral duty by hiding behind its UEFA 'obligations' and claiming they have "no choice" but to play, they completely ignore the people of Palestine who truly have "no choice" as a genocide continues to be carried out against them. Moving the fixtures to neutral venues behind closed doors, such as shifting the October 4th match to Serbia, fails entirely to address the ethical issue at hand.

The members also note that despite the FAI ruling a previous member-led boycott motion inadmissible, the upcoming EGM remains a critical battleground for the conscience of Irish sport. The FAI must be prepared to accept whatever regulatory or financial consequences UEFA may impose, rather than forcing our players and hoping our fans participate in fixtures that run entirely counter to the ethics, heart, and conscience of the Irish people. If passed, the Council agrees that the motion will be forwarded immediately to the Chief Executive of the FAI, the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport as well as to every other local authority in the country.

The details above were sent to both Mr David Courell, CEO of FAI and Minister Patrick O'Donovan.

Regards

Daryl Barron

Lord Mayor of Dublin



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

15th July 2026.

TO/EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

A Chara,

At the March meeting of Louth County Council, the Members passed the following Motion:

"That Louth County Council:

- 1. Notes with concern the ongoing proliferation of vape shops in our town centres, which is resulting in retail saturation, a reduction in economic diversity, a decline in the vitality, pull, and dwell factors of our streetscapes, and heightened public health risks—particularly for young people exposed to vaping products in proximity to schools and residential areas.*
- 2. Recognises the limitations under the current Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended): these businesses are classified as general retail uses, which severely restricts the Council's ability to require planning permission for changes of use, to refuse applications on grounds of community needs, oversupply, suitability, density, or location, or to impose conditions aligned with local development plan objectives for vibrant, mixed-use town centres.*
- 3. Resolves to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Office of the Planning Regulator, and any other relevant planning authorities, urging the following amendments to the Planning and Development Regulations and associated guidelines: o The establishment of a distinct use class for vape shops and comparable premises, treating any change of use to this category as a material change requiring full planning permission—similar to the controls already in place for off-licences and betting offices.*

The granting of explicit powers to local authorities to refuse planning applications for such uses where they would lead to over-concentration,

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Cuir fear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras Gaeilge - Correspondence in Irish is welcome
Féach foláirimh faoi Lú ón gComhairle ag www.mapalserter.ie/Louth
View Council alerts for Louth at www.mapalserter.ie/Louth

based on factors including density thresholds, suitability for the location, public health impacts, and the need to maintain a balanced retail mix that supports economic diversity and urban regeneration. The introduction of mechanisms to enable the phasing out, relocation, or restriction of existing such premises in sensitive or unsuitable areas (e.g., high streets, near schools, or areas of high residential density), including through development plan policies, supplementary planning guidance, or transitional arrangements to protect community well-being.

4. *Circulate a copy of this motion to other local authorities for their consideration and support."*

The above motion is circulated for your information and consideration.

Is mise le meas,


Sinéad Dooley
Meetings Administrator

From: Ministers Office
Sent: Monday 27 July 2026 15:51
To: Customer Services
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: DJE-MO-09254-2026

Ms. Ciara Farrell

customerservices@limerick.ie

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-09254-2026

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your correspondence dated 16 July 2026, in relation to your request for review of Protections for International Students, which is currently receiving attention.

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](#).



Ospidéal na hOllscoile Luimneach
Bóthar Naomh Neasáin
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29th July 2026

Ms. Ciara Farrell
Limerick City and County Council,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

CEO Ref 16633: Menopause Clinic Limerick

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I refer to your correspondence received on the 23rd of July 2026.

A Regional Complex Menopause Service is currently provided through the Regional Hub for Women's Health in Nenagh. The service delivers five clinics each month, including three clinics led by a certified menopause specialist consultant and two clinics led by menopause specialist GP.

A weekly virtual follow-up clinic is also delivered by the Menopause Clinical Nurse Specialist, supporting ongoing review, treatment monitoring and continuity of care.

There are no future development plans in place.

I trust this clarifies the position. Please contact me if you have any further queries.

Kind Regards,

IAN CARTER
CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services
HSE Mid West

From: Correspondence Unit <correspondence-DFHERIS@corr.cloud.gov.ie>

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 2:20 PM

To: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Ref: DFHE-CU-00516-2026

Our Ref: DFHE-CU-00516-2026

24th August 2026

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I wish to refer to your recent correspondence on behalf of Limerick City and County Council to James Lawless T.D., Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in relation to the recent closure of the English language education provider, Student Campus

While Student Campus is a private provider and does not come under the remit of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, it is noted that such a closure creates uncertainty which has a significant impact on its learners and staff.

For a provider to be eligible to recruit students from non-EEA countries, the provider's courses must be included on the Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP). The ILEP is administered by the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in conjunction with this Department.

The provider in question was an ILEP listed provider. Under the ILEP, providers are obliged to comply with relevant criteria which includes requirements to have arrangements in place for the protection of enrolled learners. Providers are required to have these arrangements in place to protect learners in the event that they fail, close or are unable to deliver an ILEP-listed programme. In this case, the provider published that it has had arrangements in place via an insurance product provided by the insurance company Academy Plus. As this closure initially unfolded, the Department recommended learners engage with Student Campus and the insurance company in the first instance to pursue solutions to their current situation.

While the ILEP currently provides measures and protections such as those outlined above, steps are being taken to strengthen the regulation of the English language education sector nationally. This Department is working closely with Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), to introduce the TrustEd Ireland – International Education Mark. The TrustEd Ireland scheme is a new quality education mark which forms part of a suite of legislative measures that are designed to provide greater protection for international learners in Ireland, encompassing the overall quality of education providers, including their programme offerings, their qualifications, and the services and supports that they offer to international learners. When fully implemented, it will supersede the ILEP for student immigration purposes.

QQI has been empowered to administer the scheme and providers will be required to demonstrate that they meet new national standards to ensure a quality experience for international learners, from enrolment through to the completion of their education programme.

To obtain authorisation to use the TrustEd Ireland mark, English language education providers must undergo a due diligence assessment process which examines their capacity and capability to deliver quality assured programmes, they must demonstrate compliance with statutory quality assurance requirements alongside satisfying the requirements set out in a Code of Practice for English language education. If successfully authorised, providers must participate in a national scheme for the protection of enrolled learners, which is underpinned by a new statutory Learner Protection Fund.

The first cohort of English language education providers to obtain TrustEd Ireland authorisation was recently announced by QQI on 5 August 2026 with further cohorts expected to be authorised by the end of the year.

I hope this information is of benefit to you.

Kind regards,

Tara Farrell-Denne,
Private Secretary to Minister James Lawless T.D.,
Minister for Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

15th September, 2026.

Our Ref: September26 – 13/JC/AC

Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

“That Clare County Council, in light of growing concerns regarding the safety, security and privacy of candidates and elected representatives, calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Government to amend the relevant electoral legislation and regulations to provide that candidates for election shall not be required to have their precise residential address published on ballot papers, notices of poll or other publicly available electoral documentation.

We propose that a candidate’s town, village or general locality and county should be sufficient for the purposes of identifying their geographical area, without the need to publish details which could identify their specific private residence.

The publication of precise residential addresses serves little additional democratic purpose where a candidate’s general locality can be provided and, in the context of threats, harassment and intimidation directed towards people in public life, can create an unnecessary safety and privacy risk for candidates, elected representatives and their families.

We further request that this motion be circulated to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and to all local authorities for their consideration and support.”

Yours sincerely,


John Corry,
Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services & Governance



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

15th September, 2026.

Our Ref: September26 – 19/JC/AC

Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection to look at increasing the top up payment to Community Employment (CE) scheme workers to a minimum of €50 and broadening the eligibility criteria to access CE schemes to encourage uptake and provide workers for community services.”

Yours sincerely,


John Corry,
Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services & Governance



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Oifigí an Chontae,
Bóthar Átha Í,
Ceatharlach, R93E7R7

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17th September 2026.

To Each Local Authority

A Chara,

At the September meeting of Carlow County Council, the Members passed the following Motion:

"That Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for Health and the Health Service Executive to urgently review and reform the current admission policy for patients presenting at Emergency Departments with suicidal ideation or acute mental health distress.

Specifically, Council calls for:

The establishment of dedicated mental health assessment and admission pathways, separate from general A&E services, for individuals presenting in mental health crisis or expressing suicidal ideation.

A mandatory requirement that mental health records be immediately accessed and reviewed when a patient presents with a history of mental health issues or expresses suicidal thoughts.

Continuous monitoring and observation of any patient identified as at risk of self-harm or suicide while in hospital care.

Additional resourcing and training for frontline staff to ensure trauma-informed care for those in mental health crisis.

This Council recognises the profound and ongoing trauma experienced by families who have lost loved ones to suicide following inadequate support in healthcare settings. We stand with bereaved families in calling for systemic change to ensure no individual in crisis is left waiting, in an Emergency Department.

The Council further requests that a copy of this motion be sent to the Minister for Health, the HSE National Director of Mental Health, and all local authorities in Ireland."

Mise, le meas.

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



**Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council**

Áras an Chontae
Cora Droma Rúisc
Contae Liatroma
N41 PF67

Áras an Chontae
Carrick on Shannon
County Leitrim
N41 PF67

21st September 2026

All Local Authorities
Via Email

Reference: LCC2026-0905

A Chara,

I wish to inform you at the September meeting of Leitrim County Council the members passed the following resolution:

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD to take an urgent review of Eir's telecommunications infrastructure, particularly in rural Ireland, and to introduce legally enforceable minimum standards for the networks reliability, maintenance and repair times, backed by meaningful penalties for persistent failures. We also call for strengthened powers for ComReg to ensure accountability and the resilience of the telecommunications infrastructure, recognising that reliable connectivity is now an essential national service."

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola McManus

Nicola McManus
Meetings Administrator
Email: nicola.mcmanus@leitrimcoco.ie

C.c.: Minister Patrick O'Donovan
Department of Culture, Communications and Sport