

**An Roinn Sláinte**  
**Department of Health**  
**Office of the Minister**



05 February 2020

Ms Honor Dunphy  
Meetings Administrator  
Waterford City & County Council  
City Hall  
The Mall  
Waterford

Dear Ms Dunphy

I wish to refer to your recent email concerning staffing levels in Waterford. I would like to convey my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. I receive a very large volume of correspondence, and on occasion, delays can arise in responding.

The Department of Health has brought this matter to the attention of the HSE. Mental health services are provided across a range of community and inpatient settings throughout the Waterford catchment area. Waterford Mental Health Services cover the geographical areas of Waterford city, Waterford county and South Kilkenny, for a population of 136,000.

Inpatient services are provided at the Acute Psychiatric Unit in University Hospital Waterford, and by the psychiatry of later life/rehabilitation services at St Otteran's Hospital, Waterford city.

Specialist community-based psychiatric services include:

- psychiatry of later life;
- rehabilitation and recovery;
- child and adolescent mental health services.

In addition there is a 7-Day Liaison Psychiatric Service available at the emergency department, University Hospital Waterford.

Waterford Mental Health Services are currently recruiting to fill vacancies for a range of medical, nursing and health & social care positions. It is recognised that there is an international shortage of both medical and nursing resources and Waterford Mental Health Services are currently running local, national and international recruitment campaigns to try to fill vacancies arising.

In the interim and in order to meet current demands on service, Waterford Mental Health Service employs staff through agencies pending the outcome of the recruitment campaigns. There is ongoing commitment to recruit and retain health care professionals in South East Mental Health Services in 2020.

Mental health and intellectual disabilities services in Waterford are provided by the Brothers of Charity services with consultant psychiatric support provided by Waterford Mental Health Services as required and appropriate.

Waterford Mental Health Services do not provide a forensic mental health service. Where clinically necessary, individuals requiring a forensic service are referred to the National Mental Health Forensic Service at the Central Mental Hospital.

**Bloc 1, Plaza Míseach, 50 - 58 Sráid Bhagóid Íochtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 XW14**

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

An Roinn Iompair,  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt  
Department of Transport,  
Tourism and Sport



Oifig an tAire | *Office of the Minister*

Mr. Honor Dunphy  
Waterford City and County Council  
City Hall  
The Mall  
Co. Waterford

12th February 2020

Ref: TTAS-MO-00341-2020  
Your Ref: HD/AOS/PM148

Dear Mr. Dunphy,

On behalf of the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Shane Ross, I wish to thank you for your letter.

A further reply will issue to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

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Chris Smith  
Private Secretary to Minister Ross

*The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie))*

An Roinn Iompair,  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt  
Department of Transport,  
Tourism and Sport



Oifig an tAire | *Office of the Minister*

Mr. Honor Dunphy  
Waterford City and County Council  
City Hall  
The Mall  
Co. Waterford

25th February 2020

Ref: TTAS-MO-00341-2020

Dear Mr. Dunphy,

I refer further to your e-mail of 3 February 2020.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has responsibility for policy and overall funding in relation to public transport. The National Transport Authority (NTA) has the statutory responsibility for the regulation of fares in relation to public passenger transport services.

The NTA also has statutory responsibility for securing the provision of public transport services by way of public transport services contracts in respect of services that are socially necessary but commercially unviable.

The funding of those services comprises both the fares paid by passengers and the subvention payments from the Exchequer. The main purpose of the subvention payment is to meet the gap between income from fares and the cost of operating services.

In 2019, the Irish Exchequer provided over €300m as subvention for public service obligation (PSO) transport services and Rural Transport Local Link services. I understand from the NTA that, in 2018, passengers paid €625.5 million in fares on subsidised bus and rail services.

Therefore, if such services were to be provided free to passengers, then the expected cost to the Exchequer would be in excess of the €625.5m collected in fares in 2018. This amount would be additional to the 2019 Exchequer allocation of €300m for PSO support and the further amount (€95m allocation for 2019) that the Department of Employment Affairs and Social





Protection pays to public transport providers in respect of its free travel scheme, which provides free transport to almost 1 million people in the State, including all people aged over 66 living permanently here, along with some other qualifying people.

So taking round approximate figures, the introduction of a free public transport system would cost the taxpayer about €625 million per year, in addition to the €400 million that the Exchequer already spends on public transport services. And this is just the cost of the actual services; it does not count the Exchequer investment in public transport infrastructure which in 2019 was about €350 million, and will be rising sharply over the coming years.

The above estimates of the full year cost of providing free public transport do not factor in the cost of providing the additional fleet, depots, drivers, etc. to meet the likely resultant substantial increase in passenger numbers, if fares were reduced or eliminated.

In summary, introducing free public transport for all users even for one County or City, as a pilot scheme, would require substantial additional funding by the taxpayer or from other sources.

*Chris Smith*

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Chris Smith

Private Secretary to Minister Ross

*The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie))*



Sláintecare.

2 March 2020

Dear Councillors

As you will be aware, Sláintecare is the ten-year programme to transform our health and social care services.

The Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare established cross-party agreement on Sláintecare as a single, long-term vision for health and social care and the direction of health policy in Ireland. The goal of the agreed ten-year plan for Sláintecare is to enable the delivery of the right care for patients, at the right time, in the right place and by the right team, at low or no cost.

As we finish the first full year of implementing Sláintecare I would like to update you on the significant progress made since the Sláintecare Programme Implementation Office was established.

In 2019 we announced the €20m Sláintecare Integration Fund, which was awarded to 122 projects all around the country. These projects are designed to:

- Promote the engagement and empowerment of citizens in the care of their own health;
- Scale and share examples of best practice and processes for chronic disease management and care of older people; and
- Encourage innovations in the shift of care to the community or provide hospital avoidance measures.

Funding for these projects will help people stay out of hospital, manage their own health needs and provide 300 extra front-line staff delivering services for patients in their communities.

In addition, we have secured funding for 1,000 new therapists, nurses and other staff to care for people in the community, including dementia advisers. This will allow us to treat people close to home and reduce community waiting lists.

Other work completed in 2019 encompassed some fundamental changes to the system to benefit patients and staff, including agreements:

- to establish six new regional health areas, gealigning Hospital Groups and Community Healthcare Organisations, which is a first major step towards restructuring our health services in line with recommendation in the Oireachtas Committee report;
- to support the findings of the Independent Review Group established to examine private activity in public hospitals (the De Buitléir Report) with the decision and announcement that all future consultant appointments, from second quarter 2020, will be to the new Sláintecare Consultant contract for public only work;

- on a revised GP contract in April 2019, which will see a € 210 million investment (40% increase) in General Practice over the next four years of which €80 million will be available for the management of chronic diseases, like diabetes and COPD, through family doctors. This is expected to benefit more than 400,000 patients;
- on the strengthening of the Health Service Executive with the formal appointment of the HSE Board in May 2019 and the appointment of a new HSE Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Work is currently underway to design the new regional health areas. This is focussed on two broad areas:

- how services should be developed and delivered to achieve the vision of the Oireachtas Sláintecare Report for timely access to quality services; and
- the appropriate governance and architecture to effect the changes.

This work is being undertaken in partnership with Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) and Hospital Groups within the HSE, along with other stakeholders. It is envisaged that each region will hold a number of planning events, which the CHOs and Hospital Groups are managing, and I expect there will be opportunities for engagement at that level.

A member of the Sláintecare team has recently given presentations to the Western, Dublin North East and Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Fora, with a further presentation to the Southern Regional Health Forum planned for June. Attendees will have copies of that presentation, should you wish to see it.

Further information on our work, including progress reports and information on projects funded by the Sláintecare Integration Fund are available on our website or from my colleague Elaine Scanlon, who can be contacted by email at [elaine\\_scanlon@health.gov.ie](mailto:elaine_scanlon@health.gov.ie)

I would like to thank you for your continued commitment to the long-term and all-party vision of Sláintecare as we move into our second year of implementation.

Yours sincerely



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Laura Magahy

Executive Director, Sláintecare Programme Implementation Office



# Registration Form:

## Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020

Be part of Ireland's Ancient East Brand  
Growing your visitors - Learning from the best

**Date:** Wednesday, 22nd April 2020, 8.30am to 2.00pm

**Venue:** Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Please reserve ..... places.

€20 plus VAT p.p. .... Non-member at €30 plus VAT p.p. ....

Company: .....

Contact: .....

Tel.: ..... Email: .....

Please tick payment method:

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- Send Invoice € ..... Purchase Order Number .....
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- Payment made by booking online

<https://www.dundalk.ie/event/cross-border-tourism-conference-2020>

Please return booking form and accompanying payment to:  
Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, Unit 4, Partnership Court, Park Street, Dundalk,  
Co. Louth.

For further information please contact Brenda McGeeney, Dundalk Chamber of  
Commerce: Tel: 042 9336343, email: [brenda@dundalk.ie](mailto:brenda@dundalk.ie), [www.dundalk.ie](http://www.dundalk.ie)

### Accommodation:

Should you wish to book accommodation for the event, you may avail of the special  
conference rate at the Four Seasons Hotel:

- Single Room: €85 B & B
- Double Room: €115 B & B (2 people sharing)

Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth  
t: +353 (0)42 937 3530 - e: [info@fshc.ie](mailto:info@fshc.ie) - [www.4seasonshotelcarlingford.ie](http://www.4seasonshotelcarlingford.ie)



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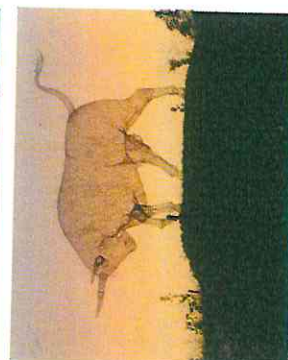


# Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020

## Learn from the best



22nd April 2020  
Four Seasons Hotel  
Carlingford, Co. Louth  
8.30am - 2.00pm



### A destination worth investigation

### #cbt2020



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland





# Conference Programme

## Conference Facilitator Chair:

Brendan McSherry - Heritage Office Louth County Council

Registration & Tea/Coffee and Networking

8.30am - 9am

**Welcome: Pat McCormick,**  
President Dundalk Chamber of Commerce

9am - 9.10am

**"What slow food can do for me"**  
Hermione Winters- President Slow Food Ireland

9.10am - 9.40am

**"World of Tourism Talks: Deeper Connections with Podcasting"**  
Wayne Denner

9.40am - 10.10am

**"Boyne Valley Food Trail"**  
Grainne McKeown

10.10am - 10.40am

**"Questions and Answers"**

10.40am - 11.00am

**Coffee Break and visit trade stands**

11.00am - 11.20am

**"Ballyhoura and how to be different."**

11.20am - 11.50am

John Fitzgerald - Chairman Ballyhoura Failte Development Group

**"Why Not!"**  
Cillian Murphy- Loop Head Tourism

11.50am - 12.20am

**"2020 Vision: 10 things your visitors want this year"**  
Pól Ó Conghaile - Travel Editor with The Irish Independent

12.20am - 12.50am

**"Questions and Answers"**

12.50am - 1.15pm

**"Networking Lunch"**

1.15pm - 2.00pm

This session gives attendees the opportunity to meet the speakers on a one to one basis and visit all the trade exhibits at the event. Key stakeholders include:

- DKIT School of Hospitality
- Southern Regional College
- Local Enterprise Office Louth
- Louth Leader Partnership
- Louth County Council Planning Office

Conference ends at 2.00pm

## Your Speakers



Cillian Murphy believes a sustainable tourism industry can only be created through prioritizing community involvement in destination development. Co-founder of Loop Head Tourism, a multi-award winning Irish responsible tourism destination, he has spoken many times on this topic including at World Travel Market and The World Bank Group Tourism Forum in Washington. Holding an MSc in Responsible Tourism, he has developed a practical, place based, methodology which put the host community at the very centre of the destination development process, empowering and building them to better understand the role tourism plays, what assets they have and are happy to sell, and to whom and when it is appropriate. Cillian has provided advice to many communities, local authorities and destination management organisations throughout Ireland and internationally, including Visit Lofoten, Central Counties Tourism, Canada, and is currently working with The National Trust Northern Ireland delivering the community engagement lens of the Giants Causeway Capacity Study.



Hermione Winters is the current President of Slow Food Ireland, having taken over from Darina Allen in March 2017. She has been a member of Slow Food since 1999; in 2000, she established The Garden Convivium, a local branch of Slow Food covering South Dublin/North Wicklow. As Slow Food Ireland is a volunteer organisation, Hermione works full-time as the Company Secretary Manager in the Asset Management and Investment Funds Division of a leading Dublin law firm. In 2003, Hermione left law to set up her own business "passion for food", a retail outlet specialising in Irish artisan foods. She sold the business in 2008, returning to law. Hermione is still passionate about food dedicating all her spare time to promoting Slow Food and organising events, both national and local. She is currently working on a number of projects for Slow Food: the setting up of a Fresh Blood Pudding Presidia; the introduction in Ireland of the Slow Food Chefs' Alliance and, in conjunction with Trinity College, "Food Smart Dublin" a project to promote sustainable seafood consumption. Hermione loves cooking, enjoys foraging and is experimenting with hedgerow brewing.



Pól Ó Conghaile is Travel Editor with The Irish Independent and a regular contributor to National Geographic Traveller. He has been voted Travel Writer of the Year in both Ireland and the UK, has been published all over the world, and as a travel expert features regularly on national TV & radio. Pól is the author of Secret Dublin: An Unusual Guide (Jonglez) and a speaker at travel, media and food events, including the National Geographic Traveller masterclasses. He is a father of two, husband of one, and continues to travel widely throughout the island... and beyond. Follow him on Twitter at @poloconghaile.



Wayne Denner author of The Student's Guide to an Epic Online Reputation and parents' too, Coach, Educator, Speaker and Trainer, set up Ireland's first Social Network platform in the early noughties before Facebook, Twitter, Myspace and Babol. After 23 years in this space Wayne is now internationally regarded as a thought leader and influencer on online safety and reputation, online behaviour, community engagement and emerging trends in social media in today's rapidly changing online environment. Wayne inspires and motivates young people and adults to protect their well being online, take control and maximise their individual talent in today's digital world. Wayne tells his story and provides sound advice on protecting personal, professional and organisational reputation online and using social networks, the internet and smartphones to your advantage.



John Fitzgerald has over 20 years experience as Event Management Consultant and Project Manager. Previously spent over 14 years as Facilities, Engineering and Project Manager for major US Multinational IT Business. Has led Teams as PM on numerous major Construction Projects and Event Concepts and now specifically designs and Builds unique Event Designs and Experiences for Corporate and Private clients. John has also created the Kennedy Rooms Venue concept in Bruff Co Limerick as a multi room event space and specialised venue, converting an old disused Convent into a unique location for all aspects of Events and the Film Industry. John works with Rebecca on creating themed and high end Events at the Kennedy Rooms and numerous Hotels and locations around Ireland. John is Chairman of Ballyhoura Failte and is working to continue the Development of the Ballyhoura Tourism concept