

**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 Iochtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 XW14**  
Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50 - 58 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, D02 XW14  
T +353 1 635 4148 | [ministersoffice@health.gov.ie](mailto:ministersoffice@health.gov.ie)  
[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,

Handwritten signature of 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))*

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))*

**Angela O'Shea**

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**From:** Tommy Moylan [t.moylan@ailg.ie]  
**Sent:** Wednesday 3 June 2020 16:21  
**To:** 'Tommy Moylan'  
**Cc:** mcahill@longfordcoco.ie; acolgan@cllr.dlrcoo.ie; liamkenny@ailg.ie; j.coonan@ailg.ie  
**Subject:** Re: AILG Plenary Members Activity Report for May 2020 - Please view this email in your browser

**Importance:** High



## ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dear Meeting Administrator/Corporate Services Member

I hope that you continue to keep safe and well.

As part of our improved AILG communications procedures, please see below a copy of our AILG Plenary Members Activity Report for May 2020.

This monthly report gives an overview on the activities and service delivery of the AILG for May 2020. The objective of the report is to give your AILG Plenary Delegates the opportunity to report to your council and their elected member colleagues, on the ongoing work of the AILG. Please could you circulate this report with your meeting documentation for your next council meeting.

Please note that the report will also ensure that our delegates are compliant with Section 141 of the 2001 Act (as amended by Section 53 of the 2014 Act), which places a duty on them to present a report on the activities and operation of any outside body, such as the AILG, that they have been nominated to.

If you have any further queries please contact me at 01 - 6106100, mobile 086 - 8236386 or email at [t.moylan@ailg.ie](mailto:t.moylan@ailg.ie)

Kind Regards

*Tommy*

Tommy Moylan  
Co-Director  
Association of Irish Local Government  
Office Unit 10  
Manor Mills  
Maynooth  
Co.Kildare  
W23YT63

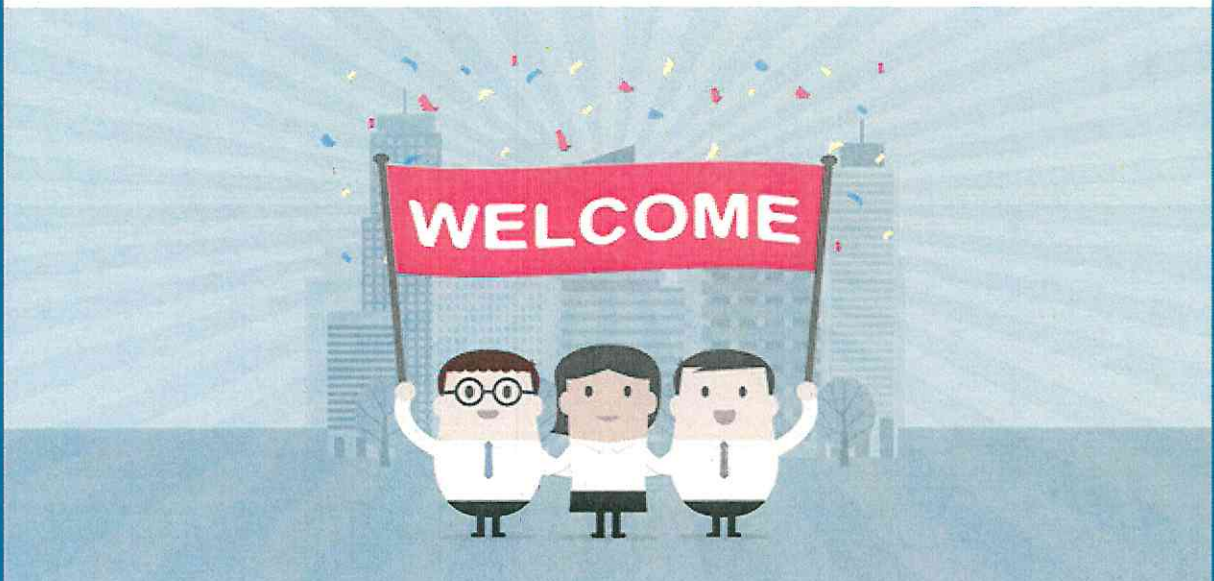
T: 01 6106100  
E: [t.moylan@ailg.ie](mailto:t.moylan@ailg.ie)



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## **AILG Plenary Members Activity Report** **May 2020 edition**



Welcome Plenary Members to your new look monthly activities report from the AILG!

Our monthly report will bring you, our Plenary Delegates, up to date on the activities and service delivery of the AILG and will allow you the opportunity to report back to your council colleagues, as their AILG delegates, to keep them informed on the ongoing work of the AILG.

Throughout this Covid-19 crisis, the AILG has continued its work on behalf of our members across the country. Like all organisations, the AILG has adapted to using alternative methods to communicate with our various committees,

elected members, government bodies and other local government stakeholders by Zoom, WebEx and other technological tools. However, we look forward to the day, hopefully not too far in the future, when we can meet all of our members in person once again.

It is a busy and exciting time here as the Association has just launched a new communications strategy which we will tell you all about. As part of this new strategy, we have a new AILG staff member on board who has just joined the Association and will be assisting the directors with new developments and ideas. We will also be launching our brand new website soon - stay tuned for more updates!

**We hope everyone is keeping well at this time and wish everyone good health and encourage you to follow the government's advice and directions to help protect your family and friends**

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So what's been happening at the AILG? Well...a lot!

- We've welcomed a new staff member to AILG headquarters!
- Our brand new website is in development and will be ready to launch in the coming weeks
- We have jumped into the world of Social Media, with our Twitter account in full flow (make sure to follow us!) and we have also created a private Facebook group which will be a useful resource for all our

members to share their thoughts and ideas

- The AILG is launching a new Training and Policy Development strategy which will further develop the work that the Association is doing on behalf of its members while also raising the profile of the Association. We will be updating you on this strategy in our June edition
- We are becoming Zoom experts (!), holding virtual meetings with each other as we continue to social distance from each other and we hope to see you all at our Plenary meeting webinar in June (more details will issue to you in due course)



### **Introducing our new Communications and Office Administrator!**

The AILG welcomed our newest staff member, Jenny Coonan, to the Association in May. Jenny is no stranger to Maynooth, having both studied and worked at the University here, and she will be assisting the directors with the next stage of the Association's development following on from its strategic review early in the year. We hope to introduce you to her soon (albeit virtually for now!) but we are delighted to have Jenny on board with us and wish her all the very best of luck in her new position!

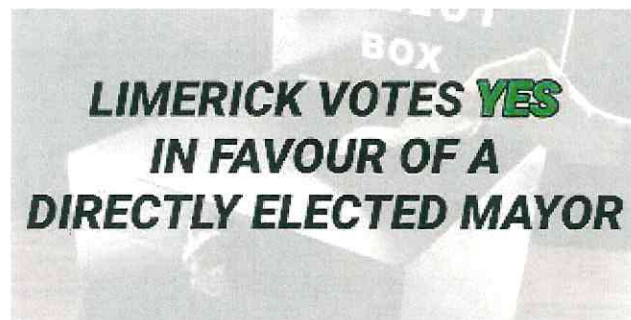




### **Communications Update**

We will be launching a brand new website in the coming weeks. The website will contain lots of new features such as videos, images, interactive tools, up-to-date news and will also include our new branding and logo. We look forward to sharing it with you very soon.

We are gathering quite a following on Twitter and we hope to continue this by posting regularly on interesting articles, updates on legislation and policy and promoting the profile and work of the Elected Members. We will also be posting photos of our events and training. You will find our social media links at the bottom of this email so we look forward to having you join us!



**AILG receives a briefing on the progression of a Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick**

In early May, the AILG Officers received a detailed briefing from officials in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the work of the Limerick Mayor Implementation Advisory Group, which has been tasked with advising the Minister about putting in place a Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions, in accordance with the outcome of last year's plebiscite on Directly Elected Mayors in Limerick City and County.

The briefing was very informative for the AILG to hear first-hand about the many issues that the advisory group have been tasked to examine, including the potential of the directly elected mayoral role into the future, the implications for the delivery of services and resourcing for Limerick City and County Council, the governance relationships between the new Mayor, the Council and the Executive and what possible extra functions the Mayor could take on.

The AILG delegation did stress to the officials that in the progression of a Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick and possibly for other city areas into the future, it is imperative that the existing powers of the Elected Members in any city adopting this governance model are not diminished. As the national representative members body, the AILG need to have the opportunity to contribute to the process of determining the way this role develops.

A commitment was given that the AILG will have the opportunity to submit relevant papers on various matters, in order to feed into the process prior to their final report being completed.

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### **June Plenary Meeting - Webinar**

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are still unable to hold physical meetings at this time. We plan to host an online webinar in June to facilitate the next Plenary Delegate meeting. We will be giving you advance notice of this and will also be emailing you instructions on how to join the meeting.

We hope then that, after the final two phases of the Government's current 'Reopening Roadmap' on the 28<sup>th</sup> July & 10<sup>th</sup> August, we will be able to resume our physical meetings and once again get to meet our delegates in person.

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### **ALLG Participation on Department Bodies**

The Association is currently represented on a number of Department advisory groups on planning and waste management. Our President, Cllr. Mick Cahill, is representing our members on the Department's Development Plan Guidelines Advisory Group. The purpose of the Advisory Group is to enable core stakeholder representatives to inform and input strategic thinking to the preparation of updated Development Plan guidance for planning authorities.

Our Vice-President, Cllr. Anne Colgan, is representing our members on the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment Advisory Group which will advise the Minister on a new National Waste Policy Plan which is due to be in place later this year. This new national waste plan will inform future cycles of waste policy and resource management plans and will provide a coherent framework in which sectoral policies, targets and objectives can be realised.

The ALLG will keep our members informed of the work of our members on these important advisory groups.

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## **AILG submission to National Marine Planning Framework**

The Association made a submission to the National Marine Planning Framework in late April. Nineteen of our member Councils have coastlines or deep water ports and it is vital that local authorities be fully involved with planning decisions for off-shore and near-shore developments. The submission built on the AILG's ongoing campaign to expand the remit of local government to incorporate more functions and services which impact on the public.

Historically near-shore developments have been permitted through an old foreshore licensing system which is operated by central government. The AILG argued in its submission that, in future, such developments should be channelled through the local authority planning system which is suitably resourced to incorporate marine planning considerations.

In compiling its submission, the AILG invited inputs from Councillors throughout the country. Earlier in the year, the AILG President, Cllr Michael Cahill, and Director, Liam Kenny, attended a Department workshop seeking views on the draft Framework.

The Association will monitor the progress of this policy and report to members when the finalised Framework is published.

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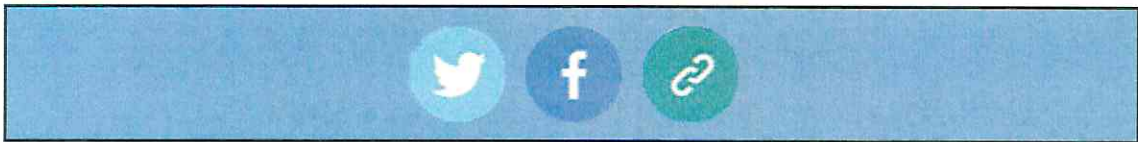
We hope everyone is keeping well at this time.

Go n-eirí an t-ádh libh go léir!

Kind Regards

Mick

Cllr. Mick Cahill  
President AILG 2019/2020



**Our mailing address is:**

Office Unit 10, Manor Mills, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

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**LG 03/2020**

18th March 2020

### **AILG Training Events for Elected Members**

Dear Chief Executive,

I would like to inform of the arrangements that have been agreed between the Department and the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) concerning attendances by elected members at training events during 2020.

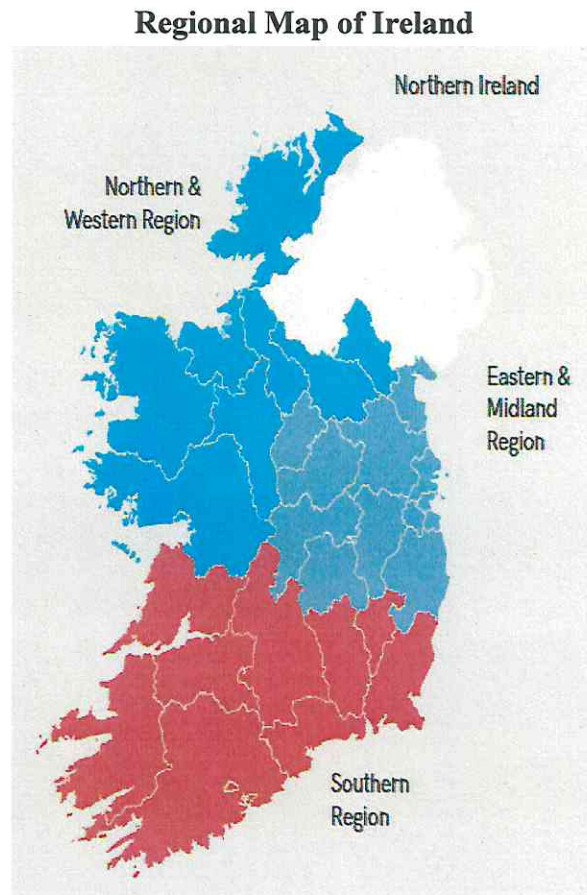
Since the implementation of the 2014 local government reforms the AILG has provided an annual training programme for elected members. The role of the AILG in providing targeted in service training for its members is recognised by the Department, as set out under Part V of the most recent circular concerning the expenses and allowances of elected members (LG 04/2019 of 5 July 2019). Elected members are entitled to claim travel and subsistence expenses for attendances at these events in line with the general terms and conditions set out in that circular as well as any other circulars that issue concerning training needs.

The AILG training has been provided through a series of modules that have each focussed on a particular subject that is relevant to elected members' reserved functions and representational role. Previous training modules have been attended by guest speakers from this Department, other Departments, local authorities and state agencies covering a broad range of topics. The Department has received positive feedback concerning the quality of these training events, both from elected members and guest speakers. It is intended that a number of the training modules in 2020 will focus on planning functions with guest speakers attending from the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)

With consideration of the attendance patterns for past training events, the AILG has now revised its scheduling arrangements. Each training module will now be delivered over 2 dates rather than 3. For each training module there will be 1 training date scheduled on a weekday (Mon to Fri) and 1 training date scheduled for a weekend to accommodate members who may have other commitments during the week.

For each training module, 1 training event will take place at a location in the *Eastern & Midland – Northern & Western Regions* and 1 training event will take place at a location in the *Southern Region* (in effect dividing the country into a 'northern half' and 'southern half' for the purpose of AILG councillor training events).

Elected members are expected to attend training events organised at a location in their own training region (i.e. either (i) *Eastern & Midland/Northern & Western* OR (ii) *Southern*) but may attend 'out of region' weekend training events, on a limited basis, in circumstances where they are unable to attend the corresponding weekday training event in their own region.



The Department has agreed with the AILG that each elected member may attend a maximum of 2 out of region weekend training events during 2020. These attendances may be in respect of any AILG weekend training events organised during the calendar year. It is not a requirement that the attendances be split into separate 6 month periods, as had been the case pre-2019.

In the case of all other attendances, where an elected member chooses to attend a training event at a location other than that assigned for members of his/her local authority, any travel and subsistence that may be payable shall not exceed the amount that –

- would have been payable if attending at the assigned location, or
- payable in respect of the location where training was undertaken,

whichever is the lower.

Authorisation for elected members to attend training events is a reserved function of an elected council and is subject to the maximum monetary amounts set out in the *Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2014* (S.I. No.236 of 2014).



In order to facilitate the smooth operation of training events, as well as the oversight of local authority training budgets, elected members should seek advance approval and details of all attendees should be promptly made available to the AILG. However, in circumstances where a member could not reasonably have sought advance authorisation, then the Council may apply its own discretion in considering retrospective approval.

I would appreciate if you can please bring this circular to the attention of your elected members and relevant members of staff.

Any queries in relation to this circular may be directed to Jeanette Young at [jeanette.young@housing.gov.ie](mailto:jeanette.young@housing.gov.ie) or 01 888 2728 or to Gary McGuinn at [gary.mcguinn@housing.gov.ie](mailto:gary.mcguinn@housing.gov.ie) 01 888 2800.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gary McGuinn'.

Gary McGuinn  
Assistant Principal Officer  
Local Government Governance & Elected Members Section



23/6/20

RE: Green Party Nomination to Waterford City & County Council

Dear Honor,

I can confirm that following a local selection convention of the Waterford Green Party in May, Susan Gallagher was ratified by the Green Party Executive Committee as the Green Party co-optee for Waterford City and County Council to fill the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Laura Swift.

Kind regards,

Lawrence Hemmings  
Development Manager  
The Green Party  
16/17 Suffolk Street  
Dublin  
01 636 9284

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Green Party / Comhaontas Glas  
16/17 Suffolk Street, Dublin 2, D02 AT85  
☎ (01) 679 0012

✉ [info@greenparty.ie](mailto:info@greenparty.ie)

This letter is printed on recycled paper

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

51 Upper Mount Street    Tel 01 619 8444  
Dublin 2                      Fax 01 662 5046  
Ireland                        Email [finegael@finegael.ie](mailto:finegael@finegael.ie)  
Web [www.finegael.ie](http://www.finegael.ie)

RE: Waterford City & County Council Co-Option

Hello Honor,

Frank Quinlan is the Fine Gael Nomination to replace John Cummins on Waterford City & County Council

Any future details you need please contact me,

Regards

*Willie Gleeson*

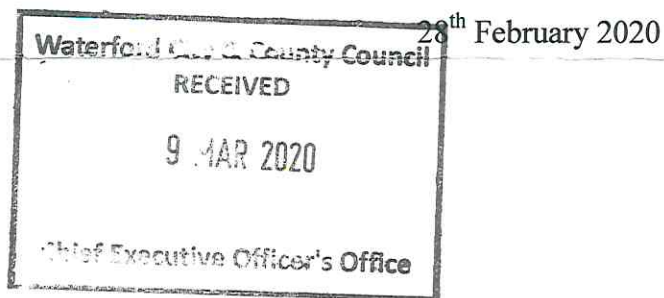
Willie Gleeson  
Fine Gael South East Regional organiser  
0872544374  
[willie@finegael.com](mailto:willie@finegael.com)

# Comhairle Contae Chorcaí Cork County Council

Halla an Chontae,  
Corcaigh T12 R2NC, Éire.  
Fón: (021) 4276891 • Faics: (021) 4276321  
Suíomh Gréasáin: [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie)  
County Hall,  
Cork T12 R2NC, Ireland.  
Tel: (021) 4276891 • Fax: (021) 4276321  
Web: [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie)



Corporate Services  
Waterford City and County Council  
Bailey's New Street  
Waterford  
X91 XH42



**To: Each Local Authority**


A Chairde,

At the recent Full Council Meeting of Cork County Council, the following Motion was discussed on the proposal of Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, seconded by Cllr. Liam Quaide:

*“That Cork County Council write to Department of Health, the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and request recognition be given to Parental Alienation as a child-welfare issue and to call on the Government to implement the recommendations of The Report on Reform of the Family Law System, October 2019.”*

It was agreed to circulate this Motion to all Local Authorities. I would be grateful if you bring this to the attention of your Elected Members for their information and attention.

Yours sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**MAIREAD LUCEY**  
**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**