

Angela O'Shea

Subject: FW: PER-MMO-00466-2021

From: Minister McGraths Office [<mailto:per-mmo-correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>]

Sent: Thursday 13 May 2021 16:02

To: Contact User

Subject: PER-MMO-00466-2021

Our ref: PER-MMO-00466-2021

Ms Honor Dunphy

Waterford City and County Council

City Hall

The Mall

Waterford

Dear Ms Dunphy

I refer to your correspondence of 26 February 2021 relating to the confiscation of monies under the Proceeds of Crime Acts 1996-2016, the proposal to direct this money to local services and to make legislative changes to allow this to occur. I wish to apologise for the delay in responding to your correspondence. My officials and I have been engaging intensively on developing options for consideration in relation to this matter since late last year, and I was not in a position to provide a substantive reply to your query until an outcome to those considerations was reached.

I wrote to my colleague the Minister for Justice last January inviting views as to how funding for local services might benefit from seizures by the Criminal Assets Bureau and An Garda Síochána which are subsequently determined to be the proceeds of crime. I can advise that we had a very constructive discussion in early March about developing proposals in relation to community safety policy, which would be a visible means of showing a link between seizures of the proceeds of crime and the provision of public funding for communities.

As I have stated previously in Parliamentary Questions on this issue, any proposal to ring fence funding allocations would contravene a general principle of public financial management that earmarking revenues for a specific expenditure programme would constrain the Government in the implementation of its overall expenditure policy. There can also be practical difficulties in ring-fencing funds collected by the Criminal Assets Bureau and An Garda Síochána owing to the variable and uncertain nature of the value of the assets seized in any given year. The potential delays caused by legal challenges to court disposal orders would also be problematic in terms of the continuity of provision of funding for community projects from year to year.

Notwithstanding this position, the continued importance of community crime prevention initiatives and the need for the prioritisation of funding for such initiatives is a matter on which both the Minister for Justice

and I are fully agreed. I am of the view that as a Government we should clearly demonstrate to communities how success in detecting and combatting crime can be linked in more transparent ways to support for diversion programmes while respecting the principles of public financial management.

In recent months, officials within the Department of Justice and my own Department worked to further develop these proposals which resulted in the Minister of Justice and I jointly announcing our agreement in principle to establish a new fund to support community safety. The announcement which is available at <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PR21000094> outlines that the new Community Safety Innovation Fund will be included in the Justice Vote as part of the Estimates Process for 2022 and will reflect the significant successes of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in disrupting criminal activity and seizing proceeds of crime.

The Community Safety Innovation Fund will support the work of new Community Safety Partnerships in every local authority area by providing prioritised funding to the best community safety proposals. It will also encourage the development of innovative ways in which to improve community safety from people within the community itself, as each Community Safety Partnership will bring together residents, community representatives, business interests, councillors, local authorities and State services such as An Garda Síochána, Tusla and the HSE to devise and implement Local Community Safety Plans. The Plans will detail how best the community wants to prevent crime and will reflect community priorities and local safety issues. The goal is to make communities safer for families, residents and businesses.

Yours sincerely

Michael McGrath TD
Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform

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

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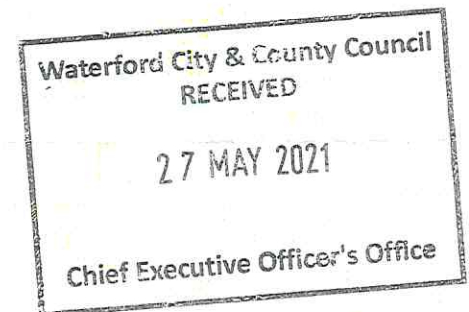
**An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide**
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications



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

17th May 2021

Re: YOUR REF # - HD/AOS/M183



Dear Ms. Dunphy,

On behalf of Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, I wish to respond to your correspondence dated 12th April 2021, regarding Waterford City & County Council's call to increase the penalties laid out in the Litter Pollution Act.

As your members will be aware, the current €150 on-the-spot fine for littering offences is just one of a range of measures aimed at tackling the problem of litter and illegal dumping in Ireland.

Under the Protection of the Environment Act 2003, penalties attaching to litter offences are substantial. This Act amended sections 19, 21 and 24 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and introduced conviction on indictment for litter offences, with a maximum fine of €130,000 and set the maximum fine for summary conviction at €3,000. The fines for continuing offences are €600 per day for summary offences and €10,000 per day for indictable offences. A person convicted of a litter offence may also be required by the court to pay the local authority's costs and expenses in investigating any offence and bringing a prosecution.

Local authorities, as the bodies responsible for enforcement of the legislation, also have it at their discretion to decide whether any offence committed warrants the application of the Litter Pollution Acts, or in the case of illegal dumping, the Waste Management Acts which carry further punitive provisions for dumping offences.

Office of the Minister

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D'fhonn is go gcuirfeair feidhmeanna na Roinne i gcrích, agus seirbhísí ar fáil, ceanglaíonn an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide go soláthróidh custaiméirí sonraí pearsanta áirithe. Féadtar do shonraí pearsanta a mhalartú le Ranna Rialtais eile agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile in imthosca áirithe de réir dlí. Tugtar sonraí iomlána sa bhFógra um Príobháideacht Sonraí atá ar fáil ar www.dccae.gov.ie, nó i bhfoirm chruachóipe arna iarraidh sin.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment requires customers to provide certain personal data in order to provide services and carry out the functions of the Department. Your personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments and Agencies in certain circumstances, where lawful. Full details can be found in the Data Privacy

Notice, which is available at www.dccae.gov.ie or in hard copy upon request.



Motion No. 179.

Our Ref: 211549/TAN

18 May 2021

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



Dear Ms. Dunphy,

I have been asked by the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Leo Varadkar T.D., to reply to your recent letter in relation to the resolution agreed by Waterford City and County Council pertaining to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada, commonly referred to as CETA.

CETA is one of the EU's new generation of progressive free trade agreements and is designed to benefit EU and Canadian companies through improved trade flows in support of increased employment for our citizens. The elimination of tariffs, reduced trade barriers and simplified customs procedures that flow from CETA all make it easier and cheaper for Irish companies of all sizes to export to Canada and vice versa. Outside of Europe, the US and China, Canada is our largest indigenous export market with more than 400 Enterprise Ireland clients doing business in the Canadian market employing over 6,000 people.

Diversifying trade is an important part of the Government's Brexit response and it will be an important factor in our recovery post-pandemic. To this end, the best way to achieve export growth and market diversification is by improving market access and reducing costs of entering those markets which is what CETA is designed to achieve. Given our historic ties with Canada, Ireland's enterprises are particularly well placed to benefit from CETA. Indeed, as CETA has

provisionally applied since 21st September 2017, we have already seen many of its benefits take effect resulting in increased exports of Irish goods and services, in support of quality, well-paid, jobs.

The benefits and opportunities to business in the agreement will be especially valuable for SMEs, given that trade barriers tend to disproportionately burden smaller firms, which have fewer resources to overcome them than larger firms. CETA contains an entire chapter exclusively dedicated to SMEs aimed at addressing those specific constraints that might otherwise limit SMEs taking full advantage of the improved EU-Canada trade agreement market access.

Among the main benefits for Ireland in this Agreement include:

- the opening up of public procurement markets in the Canadian provinces giving Irish firms increased access to Canadian public sector purchasing;
- unlimited tariff-free access for most of our important food exports;
- the recognition of product standards and certification, saving on ‘double testing’ on both sides of the Atlantic – a particular benefit for SMEs;
- trade facilitation provisions that reduce processing times at the border;
- a framework for the EU and Canada to recognise each other's qualifications in regulated professions;
- agreement that products are only able to be imported to, and sold in the EU, if they fully respect EU regulations; and
- consumers potentially enjoying lower prices and a wider choice of products and services once the Canadian import satisfies all EU product rules including social and environmental standards, as well as people's health and safety and consumer rights.

Furthermore, exports of Irish goods and services to Canada totalled approximately €3.9 billion in 2019, a 35% increase compared to 2016, the last full year, prior to the provisional application of CETA. So, CETA is delivering “on the ground” for Irish citizens and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the enterprise agencies will continue to promote the benefits of CETA for Irish-based enterprise. This increased trade along with our wider strong trade performance helps underpin the creation of quality, well-paid jobs.

Importantly, CETA contains a dedicated chapter on Trade and the Environment, recognising the commitment of both Parties to co-operate on trade-related environmental issues of common interest including trade-related aspects of domestic climate-change policies and programmes, with both parties being signatories to the Paris Agreement. It includes commitments to promote the sustainable use and trade of natural resources and promotes practices supporting sustainable development objectives as well as substantive commitments to the International Labour Organisation core labour standards and the ratification and implementation of the fundamental ILO conventions.

The full coming into force of the Agreement once ratified across all Member States, will see the implementation of the Investment Chapter of the Agreement including the resolution of disputes between investors and states – the Investment Court System (ICS) – should they arise. The EU's new approach to investment protection is contained in CETA and replaces the old Investor-State Dispute Settlement or ISDS mechanism. ISDS has been included in more than 2,000 international investment treaties but is now regarded as outdated by the European Commission. In this regard, the Irish Government believes that the European Commission was right to seek to address legitimate concerns raised by non-governmental organisations and civil society regarding ISDS. The Tánaiste firmly believes that the European Commission's response – the Investment Court System (ICS) – addresses earlier concerns on transparency, legitimacy and public interest.

Significantly, CETA introduces a precise and specific standard of "fair and equitable treatment" of investors and investment. Therefore, an investor may only have recourse to the ICS in very specific limited grounds such as in the case of the denial of justice, or a fundamental breach of due process, or through targeted discrimination. None of these measures give the Government any concern that Ireland would be subject to ICS proceedings. An investor cannot be given compensation just because they have lost profits or suffered economic loss or costs. CETA also reaffirms the EU and Canada's right to regulate to achieve legitimate policy objectives, such as the protection of public health, the environment or consumer protection meaning measures relating to plain packaging on cigarettes, or minimum alcohol pricing can continue to be introduced. Under CETA Canadian service suppliers and firms are placed on an equal footing with their EU competitors. This means that Canadian companies must comply with all EU and national legislation in the countries where they operate, including Ireland, in the same way that EU companies must. Moreover, it is important to note that under the ICS a State can

never be forced to change its legislation, only to pay fair compensation in cases where the investor is deemed to have been treated unfairly under the specific grounds detailed.

The global economy is changing in ways that are making trade more important than ever before. As a small, open economy, Ireland has benefitted immensely from our export orientated enterprises trading across the globe and, therefore, the Government is fully supportive of balanced international trade and the suite of EU Free Trade Agreements that seek to underpin this. Equally, Ireland has been an attractive destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for many decades and participating in EU-Third Country Agreements that address Investment Protection continue to assist marketing Ireland as a competitive FDI-friendly jurisdiction for multinational enterprises to make their investments with the attendant jobs and prosperity that that entails.

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Union Affairs has commenced its considerations of the various aspects of CETA and the Tánaiste looks forward to further discussing and debating this important Agreement and having the opportunity, once again, to highlight in detail the benefits that CETA provides for businesses and citizens alike, including at Oireachtas Committee level and thereafter of bringing the relevant ratification motion before the Dáil seeking the approval of the terms of CETA.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Eamonn McCormack
Private Secretary

Angela O'Shea

From: Honor Dunphy
Sent: Wednesday 19 May 2021 13:16
To: Angela O'Shea
Subject: FW: FIN-MO-02945-2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI

From: Contact User <contact@waterfordcouncil.ie>
Sent: 19 May 2021 10:17
To: Honor Dunphy <hdunphy@waterfordcouncil.ie>
Subject: FW: FIN-MO-02945-2021

From: Minister for Finance [<mailto:finance-mo-correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>]
Sent: 19 May 2021 10:05
To: Contact User
Subject: FIN-MO-02945-2021

Our Ref: FIN-MO-02945-2021

Ms Honor Dunphy

(contact@waterfordcouncil.ie)

Dear Ms Dunphy

The Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your recent email received on 18th May 2021

Yours sincerely,

Alex Costello
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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Angela O'Shea

Subject: FW: DES-CU-03214-2021

From: Correspondence Unit <no-reply@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: 20 May 2021 15:29
To: Honor Dunphy <hdunphy@waterfordcouncil.ie>
Subject: DES-CU-03214-2021

Ms. Helena Dunphy
Meetings Administrator
Waterford City and County Council
City Hall, The Mall
Waterford

hdunphy@waterfordcouncil.ie

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Ref: DES-CU-03214-2021
Your Ref: HD/AOS/M185

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding eligible and concessionary students for school transport.

Your correspondence will be brought to the Minister's attention as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Newcombe
Private Secretary

Angela O'Shea

Subject: FW: PER-MMO-00958-2021

From: Minister McGraths Office <per-mmo-correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>

Sent: 24 May 2021 17:43

To: Honor Dunphy <hdunphy@waterfordcouncil.ie>

Subject: PER-MMO-00958-2021

Our Ref: PER-MMO-00958-2021

Your Ref: HD/AOS/M186

Honor Dunphy

Waterford City and County Council

City Hall

The Mall

Waterford

Email: hdunphy@waterfordcouncil.ie

RE: N24 Waterford to Limerick Corridor Road project

Dear Honor

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr Michael McGrath, TD, has asked that I reply to your correspondence of 14th May 2021 regarding the prioritisation of the planning, design and construction of the N24 Waterford to Limerick Corridor road project within the review of the National Development Plan.

The Minister has asked me to thank you for conveying the views of the members of Waterford City and County Council which will feed into the overall review of the National Development Plan. The process of the NDP will allow for allocations to be provided to sectors for the ten-year period from 2021 to 2030. It is then up to the sectors and departments to assign this expenditure to priority areas and projects. Therefore, it will be up to the Department of Transport to decide which projects will be prioritised from the funding allocated as part of the NDP process. Accordingly, your correspondence has been forwarded to the Minister for Transport, Mr Eamon Ryan TD office for his consideration.

Yours sincerely

Niamh Collins

Private Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform

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

Angela O'Shea

From: eCorrespondence (DCYA) <DCYA-Correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 3 June 2021 11:45
To: Angela O'Shea
Subject: CEDiy-MOGO-02638-2021

3rd June 2021

Ms. Angela O'Shea
aoshea@waterfordcouncil.ie

Dear Ms. O'Shea,

In responding to the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation, the Government approved the development of a Strategic Action Plan encompassing a suite of 22 specific measures. These measures, which take account of the Commission's recommendations are a response to the priority needs and concerns of former residents and their families.

Most importantly, he recognises the importance of implementing these measures in a survivor-centred way, characterised by consistent engagement with former residents and their representative groups, including those who live outside the jurisdiction. Notably, several hundred survivors have contacted this Department since the report was published. Many of these individuals had never been in contact with us before and they want to actively contribute to the process. An increased level of engagement is also evident from the consultation process established to inform development of a Restorative Recognition Scheme, with approximately 450 written submissions received and 159 participants in 17 online meetings.

The Minister is of the view that stakeholder engagement at this level requires additional dedicated structures, processes and resources to ensure it can be inclusive, effective and sustainable.

The Minister welcomes support from Waterford County Council, as the Department will need to work with local authorities to achieve some of these measures.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Hughes
Private Secretary to Minister Roderic O'Gorman TD

Comhairle Contae na Mí

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh,
Contae na Mí, C15 Y291

Fón: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

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Uimhir Chláraithe 00172770



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Co. Meath, C15 Y291

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E-mail: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Registration No: 00172770

Corporate Services Department,
May 20, 2021

Re: May 2021 Meeting, Meath County Council

Dear Meeting Administrator

At its monthly meeting on May 10, 2021, members of Meath County Council adopted the following motion and requested that it also be forwarded to all other local authorities for information:

"That Meath County Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O' Brien seeking to amend Circular LG 4/2019 "to recognise where a member loses an "immediate relative" should NOT in that instance be subjected to a financial penalty under the 80% attendance of meetings rule"."

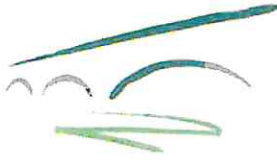
If this motion is passed, that it should be forwarded to all other Local Authorities, LAMA and AILG.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Collins
Meetings Administrator

Direct Line: 046-909 7053

Email: robert.collins@meathcoco.ie



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

17th May, 2021.

t: +353 (0) 61 557150
f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara,

I write to inform you that at a Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 22nd April, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for support:

"That, in light of the recent Government announcement on the Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 entitled "Our Rural Future," and the lack of infrastructure such as sewerage in our local towns and villages, Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to maintain the status quo with regard to policy on one-off rural housing in our County and City Development Plan and that the phrase "social and economic need" not be included".

Is mise le meas,

Laura Flannery,
Meetings Administrator.

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 7 May 2021

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghmagh.com

To: All Council Chief Executives in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

Re: Motion - Protection of Native Honeybees

At its meeting held on 4 May 2021, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council resolved that details of a Motion which it adopted at its April Council meeting, should be circulated to all Councils across the island of Ireland.

“Given Fermanagh & Omagh District Council’s commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Scheme, and noting previous Council decisions taken in relation to reducing the use of harmful pesticides, reducing grass and hedge cutting and encouraging protection and promotion of natural habitats for our bee population, this Council calls on the British Government, and on the relevant Stormont & Dáil Ministers, to oppose the importation of Italian honeybees onto this island, and to move to completely ban such actions in future.

The recently publicised move by a Kent bee keeper to avoid the import ban by importing 15 million Italian bees into Britain, via the island of Ireland, poses a serious potential threat to thousands of hives, to our native bee population and to its future viability.

The Ulster Beekeepers Association and Low Country Native Irish Honeybee Association have expressed serious concern in relation to the small hive beetle and to the potential threat posed to native black Irish honeybees (which academic studies have established as the “best gene of black bees in Europe”). These worries have been echoed by beekeepers in Britain.

Mindful of such risks, FODC calls on the British & Irish Government, as well as on the relevant Ministers in Stormont, Dáil Éireann & Westminster, to stop the import of Italian bees into Britain via the North of Ireland, as well as onto the island of Ireland, North and South, with or without the intent of forward exportation”.

The Council trusts you will support the Motion and the actions detailed therein.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

An Rannóg Gnóthaí Corparáideacha
Corporate Affairs

Secretarial Section
Leonora Earls, A/Director
Corporate Affairs
Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
Direct Tel: 01 2054826
agendamtgs@dlrcoco.ie

Darragh O'Brien T.D.
Minister for Housing,
Local Government & Heritage
Custom House
D01 W6X0

13th May 2021

Dear Minister,

I wish to advise you that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council at their meeting held on 10th May 2021 adopted the following resolution:

"This Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD and An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD calling for the immediate termination of the current Planning and Development (Strategic Housing Developments) Regulations 2017.

We ask that copy of this letter be sent to each local authority, the AILG and LAMA."

I would appreciate your comments in this regard.

Yours sincerely




Leonora Earls
A/Director of Service
Corporate Affairs